

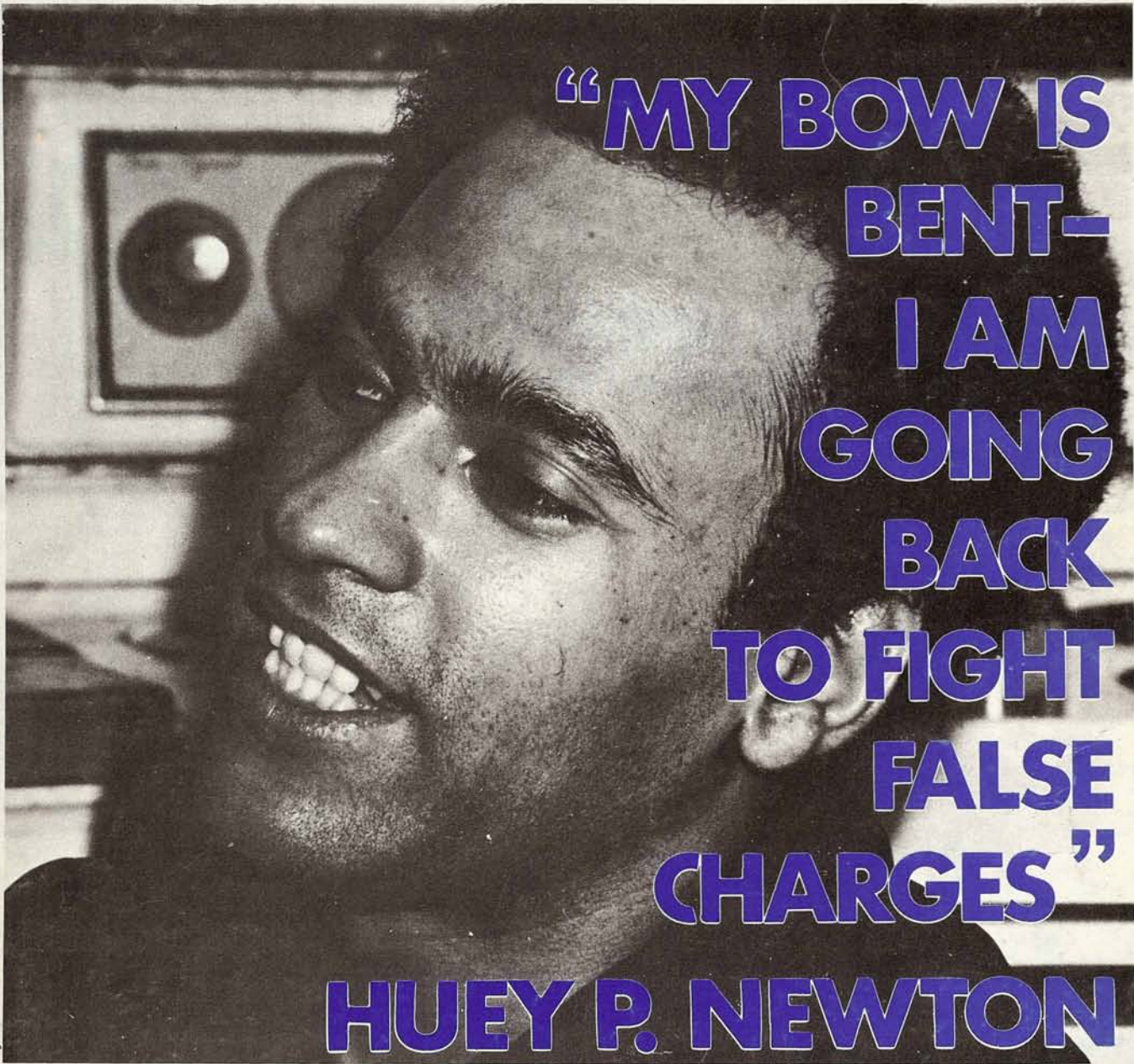
# KEEP STRONG

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JUL 22 1977

Carter's  
War On The Poor

A Publication of the Intercommunal Survival Committee  
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**"MY BOW IS  
BENT-  
I AM  
GOING  
BACK  
TO FIGHT  
FALSE  
CHARGES"**

**HUEY P. NEWTON**



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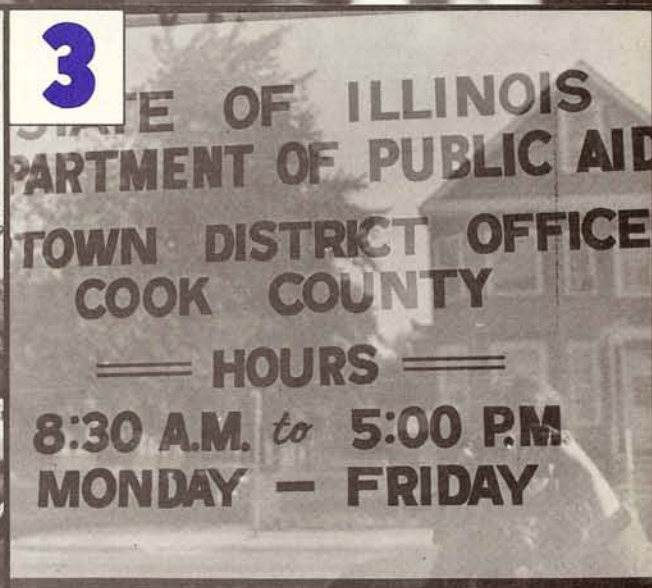
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## ~-----In This Issue~-----

1. Dynamic Black Panther Party leader Huey P. Newton returns from almost three years in exile to prove charges against him are part of a conspiracy to murder him and to destroy the BPP. See page 26 ..
2. The broad-based Anti-Chicago 21 Coalition caught the city with its pants down as it filed suit to stop the Overall Economic Development Plan. See page 29.
3. President Carter's proposed welfare plan represents a vicious attack on the poor and oppressed. See page 32.
4. Wanton police attacks against Chicago Citizens stepped up last month as police rioted in Humboldt Park. See page 13.
5. Local musicians from Uptown rap about being country singers and players. See page 52.



# Turn The Tables On Them!

*For the last 15 years there have many times appeared to be two separate causes: the cause of Black, Latino and other people of color for social justice and the cause of poor and working Whites. And too many times it has appeared that only the Archie Bunkers, Anita Bryants and George Wallaces spoke for oppressed Whites. At times the two "causes" have been put directly against each other.*

*This has caused a deep disunity that has weakened the whole movement of poor people generally for justice, and perhaps the poor White has suffered the most by this separation. It was, therefore, with great pride that the Intercommunal Survival Committee led the Uptown delegation including many poor and working Whites in the recent community challenge to Chicago's masterplan to remove poor people from the inner city.*

*It is, in fact, the main purpose of the ISC to help build a vehicle, to help build a people's structure, that poor and working Whites can use to join in and benefit from the movement for social justice that has been carried along for two decades, principally by Black people. But there are many dangers ahead.*

*The administration headed by "peanuts" Carter is indeed trained in the trickery of southern politics whose main tactic has always been to pit the poor White off against the poor Black, while robbing both. Carter's war on poor people, spearheaded by his all out murderous attack on welfare recipients, will be justified by saving tax money for working people. It will be made to seem that all people on welfare, using tax money, are Black, and all people working who are being taxed are White. If this divide and conquer tactic is successful, the Carter war on the poor, the design of which is already worse than Nixon's, will go unchallenged by millions of poor Whites.*

*The facts are, of course, that more White people are on welfare than Black people. The facts are also that people are on welfare for the most part because of unemployment or because they have been disabled by poor working conditions or inadequate health care. Finally, the facts are that*





It was with great pride that the Intercommunal Survival Committee led the Uptown delegation including many poor and working Whites in the recent community coalition challenge to Chicago's masterplan.

*Carter's war on poor people, which includes cutting down on all money for basic human services, will hit the employed as well as the unemployed. Only the wealthy will maintain the status quo with "peanuts" in the White House.*

*Instead of being played a fool by the rich and powerful, maybe this will be the year that poor and working Whites turn the tables. And what better way to turn the tables could there be than to have thousands of Whites Join in the movement to demand justice for Huey P. Newton" leader of the Black Panther Party. Huey P. Newton is a symbol of all that we in the White community have been told is a militant attack by poor Black people on poor White people. We, of course, should know by now that the Black Panther Party has always stood for the rights of all poor people and is a powerju' ally. What a disappointment it will be, then, for the rich puppeteers and political tricksters to see poor and oppressed White people in the movement for Justice for Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party!*



# on "'C/'~C'

WAS THERE AN FBI CONSPIRACY AGAINST HUEY P. NEWTON  
AND THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY?



Harriet Thigpin  
N. Racine

"I think they should have to have a court order to do it. I don't think they should be able to decide themselves who they're spying on. It would take time. It would slow them down. Right now they do anything they want. It shouldn't be that way, though. Next they'll start breaking in houses without any notice at all; without any orders or commission or anything—just go right on in."

Charles Grimm  
N. Magnolia



"I do, because that's what I hear on the news. They got a conspiracy in everything else. Why not that?"



Michelle Smith  
Sunnyside

"We all know what it's all about. Anytime the poor people unite together, the man that's controlling everything, naturally doesn't want us to unite because everybody will put their energy on one particular thing, not on everything that's going on around them. As far as the FBI—I think definitely there's some kind of conspiracy and that everyone should kind of unite together, to find out and to help."

Vernon Cox  
N. Beacon



"Yes. All I can say is that he should just be able to walk right back into Chicago. He's the one that's helping the people. He's the one that's fighting for them. The FBI—they're the ones that are trying to get all of us poor people out of Chicago and anywhere else in the States."



Louis Sherman  
W. Lakeside

"I know that the FBI had something to do with I know that the FBI conspired to stop Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party. It's been proven. It's been published in the newspapers."



Buddy Miller  
Sunnyside and Magnolia

"I do believe they conspired against them. Not only federally, but the city of Chicago. They killed Fred Hampton for nothing."



Sue Perdue  
W. Leland

"I don't think that they should. They shouldn't stop them. This is supposed to be a free country."



Raymond Dotson  
N. Reta

"I think the FBI is behind it. The FBI and the CIA are behind the majority of crimes-political crimes, here in the United States and everywhere else."



Mildred Gray  
N. Clifton

"Well, all I can say is if it's not directly the FBI, it's probably the CIA as well, because every time an ethnic group tries to come to the front and exert some form of political power, somebody is always stopped; in some way shot down, figuratively or otherwise. The way Huey left town, it wasn't too nice, so it had to be something. The pressure's coming from the top."



Bobby Jones  
N. Magnolia

"They might try but I don't think they can. The Black Panthers got more pull than a lot of people think they do."



George Murr  
Gary, Indiana

"It's an outrageous question. Anybody with any intelligence knows that they do. Did they steal this place from the Indians?"





# UNEMPLOYMENT

## "How Is He Supposed To Eat In The Meantime?"

(Chicago, Ill.) In the majority of cases when someone loses his or her job, he or she is entitled to unemployment compensation, which means getting up to one-half of an average salary for at least 34 weeks. Under the law, employers must make contributions for every worker to the state's unemployment insurance fund. Because the rates can go up when a large number of workers lose their jobs, many companies fight an application for compensation whenever an employee files, even when the worker is clearly entitled to be paid and depends for his or her survival on the benefits.

Ron Ward of N. Kenmore Street has found out a lot about unemployment compensation and red tape since he left his machinist job at Flavor Tree Foods, Inc. in Franklin Park. In Ron's case, the company decided to save itself some money by lying. Ron thinks the problem goes back to when he refused to be pushed around by his last foreman.

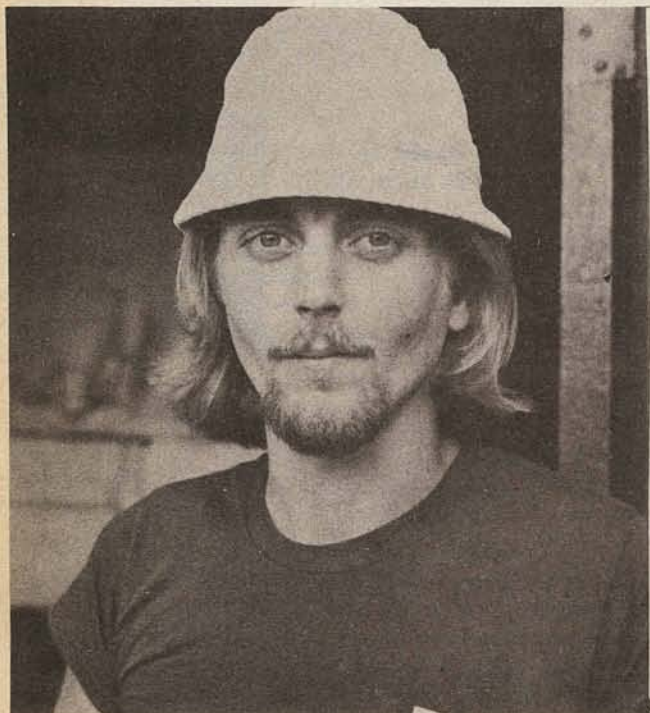
"Just a while before I left the job, this new foreman comes in and tells me, 'you're not going

to be here much longer,' " Ron described. "Not long after that, he just started adding more and more duties to my job." Soon, Ron's responsibilities had almost doubled, without any raise in pay. After protesting these changes to the foreman and getting no response, Ron left the job, knowing he'd be fired soon if he stayed on.

Just days after Ron left work, he reported to the state unemployment office. He later received a letter saying he was eligible for benefits as long as he was unemployed. But before any benefits came, another letter was delivered, cutting off benefits because the company had said he quit without good cause.

After contacting the Legal Education and Defense Program of the Uptown People's Community Service Center, Ron filed an appeal to the decision. Program workers expect Ron will win his case on appeal, but it will take several weeks. The delay caused one community legal worker to react by asking, "How is he supposed to eat in the meantime? The whole application procedure is backward. Compensation should be automatically paid until the company proves the worker is ineligible. The company is not going to get evicted or have its lights turned off while waiting for a decision, but the employee and his family will."

With the jobless rate expected to get worse, especially in Uptown, legal program workers suggest that people who are laid off or have just left a job get some advice on the way to file for unemployment compensation. They also suggest that an appeal be filed immediately if benefits



Ron Ward (left) has found out a lot about unemployment compensation and red tape since he left his machinist job. Most of all, he learned why it is that there are always so many people waiting at the unemployment office.



don't come through quickly enough or if they're denied. As one community worker described it, "No one, not the employer or the state of Illinois, is going to give up these benefits easily. It may be the law, but people still have to force them to obey it."O

## "They're Playing Games With Her Money"

(Chicago, Ill.) Unemployment compensation, administered by the state of Illinois, is supposed to protect people who have lost their jobs and help insure their survival until they can find another job. The ex-employer is usually required to pay part of the compensation. For this reason, the employers are able to appeal any claim and usually do, so as not to have to pay the compensation. Cathy (not her real name), who is the mother of three young children, lost her job last November and still has not received her unemployment compensation.

Cathy started working at Felt Products in Skokie on April 12, 1976. During the time she worked there, she sprained her back on the job and had to stay home for several days. She sent a

letter from the doctor with another person who worked there to give to her boss, stating it was necessary for her to stay home. Later in the year, Cathy again missed work when her mother died. She took off a couple of days to attend the funeral which was out of town. When her grandfather died, she did the same thing.

- On November 5, 1976, Cathy's boss told her to sign a statement that she would not be absent again before the end of the year, if she wanted to keep her job. He knew at the time that she had an appointment for her child to see a doctor on November 8, because Cathy had given him the appointment slip and explained that her youngest child had severely burned her hand and had to go have it checked. She refused to sign and assumed that she was fired.

When she applied for unemployment compensation, the company appealed and said she had left the job because, although they did tell her she would lose her job if she didn't sign the paper, no date had been set for her dismissal. Because of this she has been penalized and will have to wait even longer to get the compensation that is rightfully hers.

Cathy's husband is still working but he doesn't make a lot of money, and it's hard to make ends meet. It was for this reason that Cathy went to work in the first place. So far, she has not been able to find another job, and her children have to do without because unemployment and her ex-boss want to play games with her money.D



With high unemployment and so many companies contesting unemployment claims from their ex-employees, it is no wonder that there are long unemployment lines.



# TENANTS' RIGHTS

## *Tenants Move Quickly To Save Building*

(Chicago, Ill.) On January 31, 1977, Karl Hinz, owner of 4513 N. Magnolia, issued all tenants five day notices to move, beginning a struggle which has led the tenants of the building, under the leadership of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union (UTSU), to organize, upgrade and save their building from certain destruction.

Bewildered by the notices and enraged by the substandard condition of the building, the tenants contacted UTSU which immediately took action to prevent the evictions. This, plus the emerging unity of the people in the building, began to scare Hinz, according to the tenants. One week later the boiler was mysteriously damaged with an ax. Although the boiler was saved, quick repairs were needed to keep the building heated during one of Chicago's severest

cold spells. The next day the boiler was repaired.

The tenants established an escrow account for their rent money and used it to fix the building. In anticipation of eviction court, long lists of building violations were compiled, including caved in floors and ceilings, extensive damage to the walls, no locks and a flooded basement.

Seizing the initiative, the building club went into court before Hinz was able to proceed with the illegal evictions. They explained the threats to their families' safety and demanded that someone be appointed to take over operation of the building. James Chapman, attorney for UTSU, was made custodian of the building as the tenants had suggested. Over the next three months the tenants along with UTSU succeeded in making numerous improvements: the heating system is now fully repaired and remains in good working condition; a new lock has been installed on the entrance to the building; all but two broken windows have been repaired; the basement sewer line and floor is clear and can be used for storage; plumbing, ceilings, floors and walls have been regularly repaired.

According to representatives of UTSU, 4513 N. Magnolia is considered a prime target for destruction by a number of well known "bleed-



The tenants at 4513 N. Magnolia have organized to take care of their building as the landlord never has.



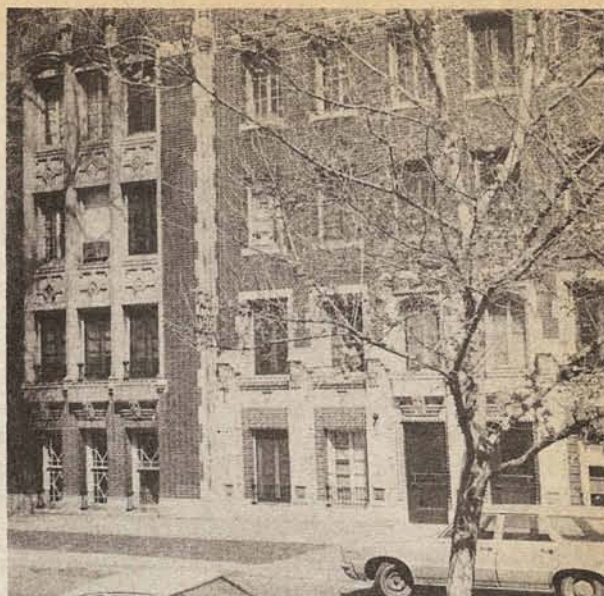
ers" in the community, specifically Charles Roberts, Joe Sadacca and Frank Czetkovic who have all owned an interest in the building. "Just three weeks before the boiler at 4513 was almost destroyed, we had watched 4448 N. Magnolia torched to the ground. Roberts and his friends had owned that building, too. We knew this time that we had to move quickly."

Encouraged by their victories and knowing that a long struggle lies ahead, the tenants remain steadfast in their determination to control the building. Danny Smalley, hard working manager of the building which has become a model for the rest of the Uptown community, told *KEEP STRONG*, "I think this clearly demonstrates what can be accomplished by people when they are united and in control of a situation. Through organization and sacrifice we've improved the conditions in this building and continue to do so. Our strength lies in our unity and hope in the future of the community." O

## Three-Star Empire Starts To Crumble

(Chicago, Ill.) In the May issue of *KEEP STRONG*, investigators from the Uptown Tenants Survival Union (UTSU) predicted a short life for Three-Star Enterprises, a fly-by-night investment company that had quickly bought up over 24 buildings in the Uptown community. According to one UTSU representative, "Steve Kittel, Dave Berg and some other investors (Three-Star's owners) are in Uptown for a fast buck, taking mostly from the tenants who already know there isn't enough housing to meet the people's needs. If Three-Star stays around too long, tenants may organize a fight and stop the flow of money too soon, making it tougher for them to sell their buildings." Holding true to the prediction, Three-Star Enterprises began to liquidate (sell out) in June.

In the few months that Three-Star owned and operated buildings in Uptown, most of the apartments have been run down, few repairs have gone back into the building, and tenants who have complained or refused to pay rent have been harassed by "enforcers" paid by Three-Star Enterprises. Still, people in the community did push for action in several buildings. For example, the city building department was forced to make a complete inspection at 4875 N. Magnolia



The city building department was forced to make a complete inspection of a Three Star building at 4875 N. Magnolia.

where tenants and neighbors had reacted strongly to the company's methods. More than 32 major housing violations were found, and the case is expected in court next month. Inspections at other Three-Star buildings have been demanded, and more charges are expected.

UTSU investigators believe the wave of community action has cut short Three-Star's stay in the area. Property owned by Three-Star on Kenmore and Magnolia Streets is now up for sale. The company has also started to liquidate, which means they intend to sell anything that can be moved from each building, taking the last few dollars and leaving little more than an empty shell. The buildings are then ready to be sold to other bleeders or are set for destruction.

Three-Star will probably operate in Uptown for a few months longer. Tenants union investigators found from records in Springfield that the investment company has operated without registering with the State, a sure sign the company never intended to be around long. Meanwhile, most of the investors (probably a handful of professionals looking for their own fast money) will get little or nothing for the money they put up. When Three-Star finally dissolves, the buildings will be in worse shape than ever, cutting even more into the serious housing shortage faced by the people in Uptown. As one neighbor to a Three-Star building put it: "People on this block learned a hard lesson quick. This Three-Star may be moving out, but we sure aren't. What they did just makes it tougher for the rest of us to stay. But, next time, we won't sit around so long before we get up and do something." O



## LEGAL RIGHTS

### *Finance Company & Car Lot Strip Repossessed Car*

(Chicago, Ill.) Connie Rivers has been making monthly payments on her car for over a year. The car is being financed by the V&L Auto Finance Company at 6140 N. Lincoln Ave. Whenever she can't make a payment on time, she calls them and says it's going to be late, and they say "O.K., fine." When her mother died, Connie got behind in her payments because everyone in the family pitched in a certain amount to pay for the funeral expenses. That was in November, 1976.

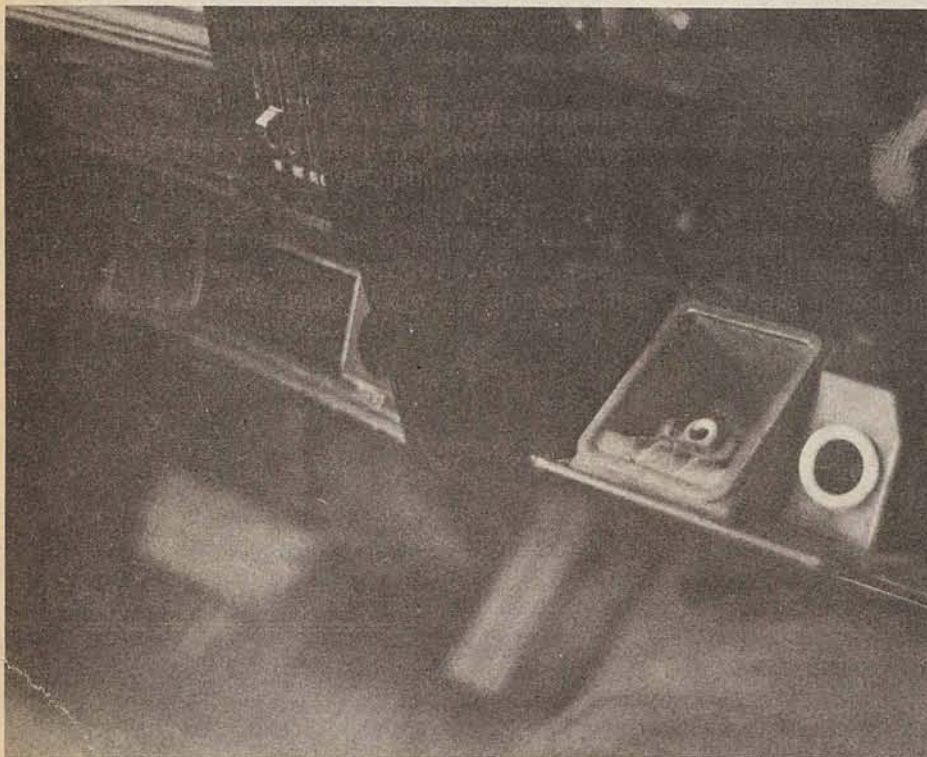
By May, she was two months behind, and the finance company repossessed her car. They picked it up on a Monday. She called them every day to say she was raising the money as quickly as possible and to make sure the car was still there. That Thursday, she went out there and made the two payments, plus \$60 extra which they charged her to get it back. Then the lady who she gave the money to said she didn't know where the car was. She made a call and told Connie she would find her car in front of a school on Waveland and Courtland.

The car was actually at Waveland and Oakley, and when Connie found it, she also found that it was not all there. A radio and 8 track stereo combination that was built into the car was gone. The two back tires, which were new, steel belted radial tires, had been switched with some old cheap tires. The lock on the driver's side was jammed while the lock on the passenger's side had been completely removed.

Connie's father had gone with her, and they noticed mechanics' tools inside the car. They were about a block from the car lot at 3645 N. Western where she had originally bought the car, so Connie went there to find out what she could. While her father waited by the car, a man who works at the lot came and got the tools. When asked why he had the tools in there, he said he needed them to start the car. Since Connie kept the hood locked, and it had not been opened, this was an obvious lie.

But what was really going on? When the car was first repossessed, Connie called the car lot. At that time they told her they knew nothing about her car. Then when she went to the finance company to pick it up, it was over by the car lot, and it had been stripped.

After Connie got her car back she contacted the Legal Education and Defense Program of the Uptown People's Community Service Center to find out what her rights were. She was set up with an attorney who will file suit against the finance company and the car lot if the car is not



When Connie went to get her car, the radio and 8-track stereo combination that was built into the car was gone, and the two back tires which were new, steel belted radial tires, had been switched with old, cheap tires.



restored to the condition that it was in when it was originally repossessed.

The finance company is responsible by law to keep the property it repossesses in good condition. A person also has the right to refuse to cooperate when a repossession takes place, forcing the finance company to take the matter to court where everyone should have a chance to present their side. A spokesperson for the legal program said there will be a follow-up on the incident to see whether the finance company and the car lot are involved in this type of practice regularly. 0

## **.Wage Assignments: ."A New Pound Of .Flesh'"**

(Chicago, Ill.) The only way most poor people ever get a chance to buy on credit is if they sign an agreement with the loan company which includes giving the company the right to a *wage assignment*. The wage assignment gives the creditor the right to contact a person's employer and demand up to 15% of the worker's gross pay. This can be done at any given time whether or not payments are behind. There is no court action, no chance to prove the debt is not owed. They just take 15% of every check until the creditor thinks she has enough. The practice has been widely condemned as unconstitutional, but the courts continue to allow it.

A recent example involved Frank Jordan of West Foster Avenue. Frank had bought a stereo from a local department store. The stereo stopped working after only two weeks, but the company refused to take it back. Since he had signed a wage assignment, the loan company threatened to take 15% out of every check if he didn't make the regular payments on the defective stereo system.

Although neither the loan company nor his employer could tell him what rights he had, Frank finally found out that he could prevent any wage assignment before it happened. He filed an "Affidavit of a Valid Defense" form and gave it to his employer after it was notarized. The affidavit (a sample is shown below) stops an employer from giving away a worker's paycheck without a court order. The loan company is then forced to take legal action where the employee can raise a defense or even counterclaim when false assignments are filed. Uptown People's

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF COOK ) SS:

### **AFFIDAVIT OF A VALID DEFENSE**

I, Frank Jordan, hereby swear that I have a bona fide defense to the claim of Sears Company, which claim is based on a debt contracted on the 15th day of January, 19 77, and for security on which debt a wage assignment is executed.

Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

~~XXXXXX~~ 9th day of June, 19 77.

Notary Public

Community Service Center legal workers explained that the form can be typed or written and made out without the help of a lawyer. The form should be filed with an employer whenever a person suspects that his or her wages might be taken by a creditor. D

## **Immigrants Have Rights Too**

(Chicago, Ill.) Recently a reporter from *KEEP STRONG* spoke to a sister who lives on the northside of Chicago. Having come from Chile several years ago, she is an "illegal" immigrant whom we will call Paula. She has been very active in helping other people with some of the many problems they come up against every day in just trying to survive. She agreed to explain the particular situation faced by "illegal" immigrants in the United States.

"In Latin America the United States is seen as the Garden of Eden. Everything on television and magazines, etc. portrays a paradise where everyone has a job and is able to earn a decent living. This is a great contrast to life in Latin American countries, where jobs are very few, and in order to get any kind of job, you have to have a degree and a high level of education. Mexico is the worst of all. There are simply no jobs to be had.

"When they get here, they find it's a completely different story. They find there are very few jobs here, too, and if you don't, have papers, the employers can pay you anything they



"Once a decision is made on an immigration case, there is no way to appeal. Most of the decisions are arbitrary, and if a mistake is made or there's an incorrect ruling, then it's just your tough luck."



want, which is usually below the minimum wage. People without papers have no rights and get no benefits whatsoever. If you get injured on the job, there's no compensation, no health insurance, nothing. You have to pay union dues but get nothing in return. I met some young Mexicans who are working as busboys in a restaurant downtown. They are getting paid \$20 for 12-14 hours of work.

"The reason people come 'illegally' is that in order to get here legally, there are requirements which are impossible to meet. One of these is the 'contrato de trabajo' or job contract. In other words, an employer in the U.S. has to promise you a job which you will get when you come here. The problem is, it takes several months to be processed, and no employer is going to wait that long if he needs someone to work for him. In trying to get papers, Latin American people are discriminated against. It is much easier for a European to be granted residency. I don't think they have to have a job contract or anything.

"Once a decision is made on an immigration case, there is no way to appeal. Most of the decisions are arbitrary, and if a mistake is made or an incorrect ruling, then it's just your tough luck.

"For example, a woman I know who's from Colombia became a legal resident four years ago. At the time she was granted residency, she also asked for residency for her three sons. Only one was granted, and the reason given was that the other two were over 21. In truth, they were not yet 21, but the American Consulate in Colombia had made a mistake. This woman was allowed no recourse to correct the mistake, and her sons have never been allowed to come here.

"One young woman came here on a visa from Colombia, and while here, she met and married a Puerto Rican man. When her first child was about to be born, she asked the immigration authorities for a permit to go to Colombia and have the baby there. They said 'okay, fine. You can go, and your papers will be ready in about two months. That was how long she had planned to stay anyway, so she went. She waited three years before her papers were finally processed, and she was allowed back in the country.

"Another example of daily problems is a woman I know who wanted to move from her apartment because it was in terrible condition, with roaches everywhere. She told her landlord she was going to move, and he left her a note saying if she didn't pay him the rent, he would report her to the immigration authorities. She moved anyway, and about a month later, they came looking for her at the factory where she had been working. Luckily she was working somewhere else by then."

We then asked what happens when they do find and arrest somebody: "You are given a \$2,000 bail. If you can't make it, they deport you. If you can somehow raise bail or get it lowered, you have three months in the country in order to go to court for violating immigration laws. When you leave, the consulate in your country has to fill out a report. You are supposed to get your bail money back in about six months. I don't know if you really get it back or not.

"Many people who are deported just keep coming back over and over again because they are desperate. That is the only way they are able to make enough money just to survive." O



# **POLICE WATCH**

## ***Mad Dogs Unleashed***

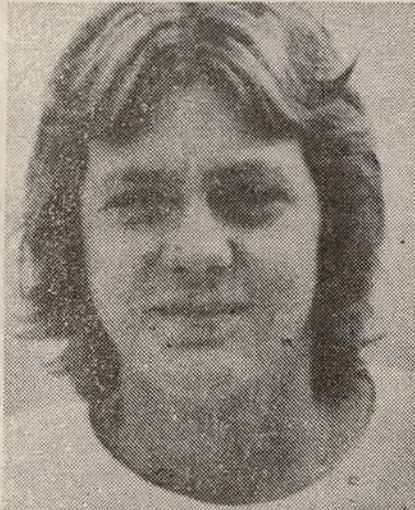
(Chicago, Ill.) A wave of police killings plagued Chicago last month as young people from every sector of Chicago's poor and working community became gameful prey for Chicago's finest.

### **The Northwest Side**

Eighteen-year-old John Neuman had sold his minibike to a friend during the winter for \$50, but had never been fully paid for it. The weather was getting warmer, and Johnny decided if he wasn't going to get the money, he should at least get the bike back.

After several unsuccessful attempts to see his friend, Johnny went to the alley behind his

**Johnny  
Neuman, shot in  
the back while  
he was  
handcuffed.**



friend's house to see if the minibike was in the garage. What he planned to do about it can't be known for sure, because Johnny isn't around to tell, but his family and friends say he just wanted to know if his minibike was there.

Allegedly in response to hearing the noise of a breaking window, a neighbor called the police. Within minutes Officer Philip Onesto and his partner, Officer William A. Sims, responded to the call. In the alley they found the unarmed youth outside the garage which had had its window broken. Johnny Neuman was handcuffed and arrested.

After a short time during which Johnny was

apparently questioned, he was told to get out of the police car where he had been sitting. He did so with his hands still cuffed behind his back. It was at this time that the inexperienced young man, apparently scared by the situation, turned and ran.

As he ran, unarmed and with his arms behind his back in handcuffs, Onesto shot him twice, in the back and the back of his leg. Johnny died two hours later in Northwest Hospital. "It is unbelievable to me that my son was shot and killed by a policeman," said Mr. Neuman who owns a bakery on N. Milwaukee Ave. Accusing Onesto of using his son for target practice in the shooting, he said, "There is absolutely was no excuse for the shooting."

A public outcry put police superintendent James Rochford on the defensive. Meekly apologizing for the incident, Rochford suspended Onesto from duty pending an investigation. He was then dismissed from the police department. While a series of investigations are in process, no formal criminal charges have been filed against Onesto as of yet, even though community residents claim that he was always trigger happy and had earned himself a reputation.

### **The West Side**

Sixteen year old Stanley Cox was out playing ball with friends in the playground of the Howe Elementary School at 720 N. Lorel. When their ball went onto the roof of the school, Stanley and a friend went to retrieve it. At that point the police came and ordered the boys off the roof. Within moments Stanley Cox had been shot in the head by Officer Froberg.

The police version of the incident calls the shooting accidental, pinning the blame on Stanley's friend who police claim landed on Officer Froberg when he jumped, causing the officer's gun to discharge. Stanley's friend claims

**Stanley Cox was playing ball with friends when a tragic trail of events led him to the other end of a pollee bullet. Stanley was suspiciously shot in the head at close range by a policeman.**





otherwise, reports the *Chicago Defender*, saying he was the first to jump. Just after he landed, and as he was still crouching to get his balance, he heard a gun go off and saw Stanley several feet away. He then asked Officer Froberg, who was a short distance away, what had happened. Froberg told him to shut up or he would get the same. Stanley Cox was taken to the hospital where he died several days later.

Officer Robert N. Froberg has been cleared of wrongdoing by the police department and the state's attorney's office.

## Humboldt Park

On June 4, after the annual Puerto Rican Day Parade, as nearly 3,000 people congregated with family and friends throughout the day at Humboldt Park in Chicago's Puerto Rican West Town community, two young Puerto Rican men were shot in the back by police, as they greeted each other in the crowded park.

In a special report issued later that week, police superintendent Rochford describes a scene of "lawlessness" and alludes to excessive gang activity. It was in this atmosphere, according to Rochford, that Julio Osorio (one of the two murdered men) drew a gun on Officer Thomas Walton. Refusing to drop his gun, but instead crouching in a "combat fighting position," Osorio, he charges, shot at Officer Walton, who returned his fire. "After the shots were exchanged, Rochford's official statement says, "Julio Osorio and another man, Rafael Cruz, were found mortally wounded." Cruz, he says, was shot by accident because he was in the same line of fire:

### Community reaction to these murders and the



Police murders and brutality greeted Humboldt Park residents on June 4.

Rafael Cruz' mother as she learns of her son's murder by police in Humboldt Park. She had spent the afternoon with her son and family gathering in the park.

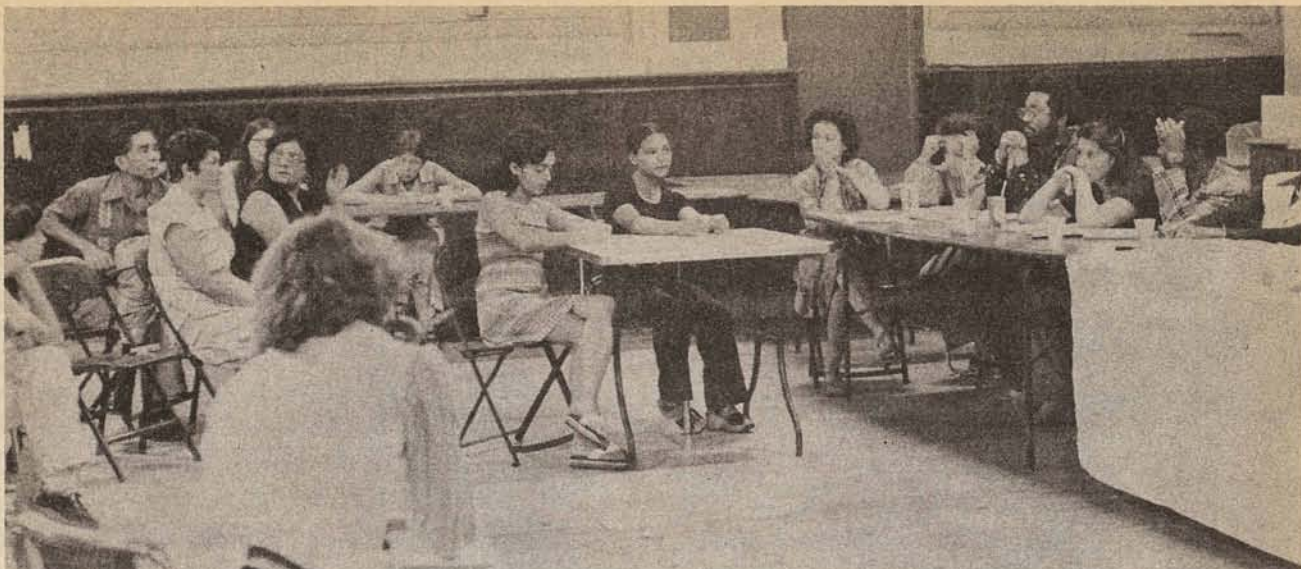


police riot that followed was swift and angry. Following a successful march to protest the police killings of Osorio and Cruz and their handling of the rest of the events on June 4 and 5, a two day People's Tribunal was held by a broad cross section of community organizations.

Witness after witness described a very different picture from Rochford's official version. As the Puerto Rican Parade downtown ended, more and more people began to gather at Humboldt Park to picnic and enjoy the company of friends and family. Tensions began to develop later in the afternoon as large numbers of police began to gather, according to several witnesses. People in the area were being indiscriminately stopped and searched, and anger grew as the affect of this harassment began to take its toll. Few gang members were, in fact, visible in the gathering, according to witnesses who said they could tell of their presence, because on that day all the gangs were wearing their sweaters. Instead, what they saw was many gatherings of family and friends.

Mercedes Cruz, Rafael Cruz' sister, described how she had last spoken to her brother earlier in the day when she had gone with her sister Maria to the Puerto Rican Parade. They were to meet later in the park. Rafael had spent the afternoon at the park with the rest of his family. He had left for a short time to go home and was returning about the same time that Mercedes and Maria were getting to the park. As the two sisters approached the park, Mercedes described how they noticed a large formation of police near the corner of Division and California





Mercedes Cruz, Rafael's sister, testified at the People's Tribunal that she had seen her brother shot in the back by police for no other reason except that he was in Humboldt Park on June 4.

Streets. They went over to see what was happening. It was then that they saw their brother, Rafael Cruz, meet his friend, Julio Osorio, in an open space not far away, but directly in the line of fire of advancing police who wore helmets and riot gear and had their guns drawn.

Mercedes described that at about the same time, Cruz and Osorio noticed the police. Cruz moved away as quickly as he could toward some bushes by the road. Osorio crouched down in the open space in a vain attempt to protect himself. At this time both men, who were some distance apart from each other, were shot by the advancing police. Both of the men were shot in the back, challenging the police version that Osorio had turned to fire on the police. No gun has ever been recovered at the scene.

Mercedes Cruz ran to her brother. Certain that he was still alive, she begged the policeman who had shot him, Thomas Walton, to call for an ambulance. He refused. An hour later Rafael Cruz was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Mercedes, like many other people in the park that day, was arrested. Kept at the police station until early the next morning, she described numerous insults and taunts that were directed at her by police. Calling her names, they jeered about how they had been waiting for this day to come.

At the conclusion of two days of testimony, the findings of the People's Tribunal were that the police were in Humboldt Park as early as 10 a.m. on June 4; there were 80 police on active reserve

and 233 on standby reserve; police used only lethal weapons; local commanders had virtually no control over police forces; and it is suspected that orders came from supervisors; there was no evidence of a gang fight inside the park; military tactics were used by the police to massacre and terrorize people; Rafael Cruz and Julio Osorio were intentionally murdered; the reaction of the community residents was an expression of their right to defend their community; testimony indicates that there were no armed community residents in the park at any time.

Blaming a street gang battle and community hostility to police as the cause of the rebellion in Humboldt Park on June 4 and June 5, Rochford said there were not enough police in the park area that day. "The mob got out of control," Rochford told a press conference. "In future disturbances, the department will act more aggressively."

Meanwhile, the families of Cruz and Osorio have filed a civil suit in federal court naming Mayor Bilandic, Police Superintendent Rochford, 13th District police commander Aurelio Garcia, police officers Thomas Walton and Robinson Urbane and several other unnamed Chicago police officers as defendants.

## Conclusion

The marked increase in police brutality and murder in the past month in Chicago appears to some to strike a definite and ominous pattern. As newly elected Mayor Bilandic maintains a get tough policy, he has given Rochford a free rein.



One community leader said, "Bilandic has unleashed the mad dogs." O

## ***Cries For Community Control Mount In Cincinnati***

(Cincinnati, Ohio) Recent police actions, including the murder of a 24-year-old White man, have raised cries for community control of the police in the southern community here.

In late April, Philip Oder, was shot by an undercover policeman while he was a spectator during the arrest of one of his friends. Witnesses say that after being shot, Oder, who they say did nothing to provoke the attack, was thrown unconscious into the back of a police van. Unconscious for three weeks, he died May 18.

Other cases of harassment and police brutality have been documented by various organizations, reports *Voices*, a local newspaper. Calling for a full investigation of the death of Phil Oder, Co-chairperson of the Appalachian Legal Action Committee and board member of the Urban Appalachian Council Phil Obermiller said, "This is only the tip of the iceberg. This is standard operating procedure for police in the neighborhoods. There's a solution, but the police department is acting to keep the solution from being used."

That solution, says Obermiller, is "community control of the complaints process. Right now the complaints process is closed up inside the police department so tightly that the community has no access to it. The police will not even disclose details of how their fox-guarding-the-henhouse complaints works."

The Urban Appalachian Council will continue to "document illegal police activities and support individuals who are subject to harassment and more serious forms of police malfeasance."

"Cincinnati has changed a few faces in the police division, but we haven't changed the system," says Obermiller. "This kind of thing is going to continue until public awareness and outrage will no longer tolerate it. We intend to press this issue among the candidates for city council in the upcoming elections." O

## **HEALTH NEWS**

### ***Blood Plasma Center Exposed***

(Milwaukee, Wis.) One way people survive is to sell their blood, usually at a blood plasma center. One such center is on Milwaukee's Northside. People in need of money come to it from all over the city. The most common donor is for plasma because they will extract the plasma from your blood twice a week, whereas they will do a transfusion less often.

Plasma is obtained by running blood through a centrifuge and then re-injecting the blood back into the donor. Plasma in the blood quickly restores itself. The going rates are five dollars for the first visit, ten dollars for the second visit and two dollars for every new customer a donor brings in. On the first visit everyone receives a brief physical exam. Then they are led to a reclining couch in a room usually filled with at least 30 others. The whole process takes about one and a half hours.

T.C. was a recent visitor to a local blood plasma center. He went because his family's welfare check was late, and they needed some cash to tide them over. His experience, he believes, is a typical one. Everything was fine until they started the transfusion. The needles they used were dull, and the nurse poked around several times before she found T.C.'s vein. Later, large sores developed on his arms. When he inquired about the needles, he was told that the center was sending back a whole shipment of dull needles. Apparently they hadn't been sent back yet.

After his blood was drawn, they attached a bottle of saline solution to the tube and let it drip slowly into his veins. This is the normal procedure. The saline solution dripping slowly into the vein keeps the vein open. However, T.C.'s bottle was left wide open and was almost empty when he called attention to it. He would've been left sitting there with an empty bottle sticking in his arm possibly causing him serious harm.

The Milwaukee Chapter of the Intercommunal Survival Committee has announced that it plans an investigation of the blood plasma centers in the Milwaukee area to make sure that this example is the exception and not the rule. "We have heard several stories about these centers, and we just want to make sure proper health procedures are being used," they said. O



# EDUCATION

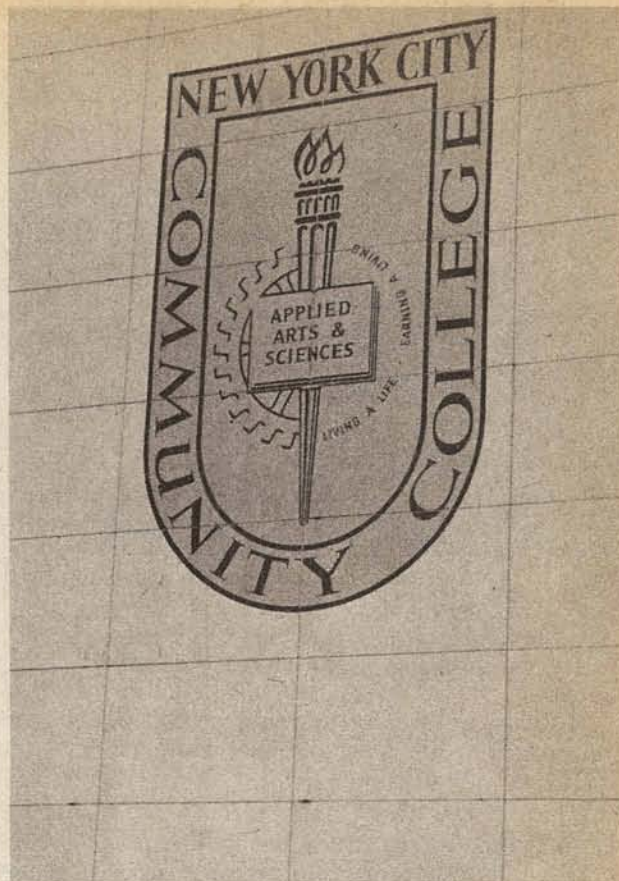
## *Planned Shrinkage In Education*

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) The City University of New York (C.U.N.Y.) is an extensive system of four year and two year colleges that was set up to meet the educational needs of city residents. As a result of struggles waged by students in the late 1960's a program of open admissions and community colleges was established. This program was designed to allow any high school graduate in New York City to attend a college and further his or her education. In the past five years there has been an attempt to destroy the open admissions program. Through a combination of charging tuition, cutting staff personnel, day care and other necessary services, the city has sabotaged a lot of programs and discouraged students from attending school.

In the past year the undergraduate student enrollment has dropped 19%, and the graduate student enrollment has dropped 32%. The current tuition of \$462.50 a semester and the cutback on available financial assistance have effectively cut out much of C.U.N.Y.'s enrollment.

Diane Cusimaro is a 22 year old White woman who lives in the Greenpoint community of Brooklyn. After graduating from high school she went to Manhattan Community College. The school was 80% Black and Puerto Rican and 20% White. While some of the programs like mental health were good and relevant, many of the teachers had an attitude that the students in this junior college really weren't going to do anything meaningful with their education. "The teachers made us feel like we weren't in college. The question came up in my mind several times—were they just doing this to keep us off the streets?"

Diane went to Manhattan Community College for two years, graduated with good grades and decided to transfer to Hunter College, a four year college that is also part of the city university system. That is where a lot of her problem began. At Manhattan College Diane had graduated with 68 credits, enough for two full years of college credit. When she tried to transfer to Hunter College, she lost 31 credits because Hunter would not accept them. Four hundred hours of field work at P.S. 110, working with retarded

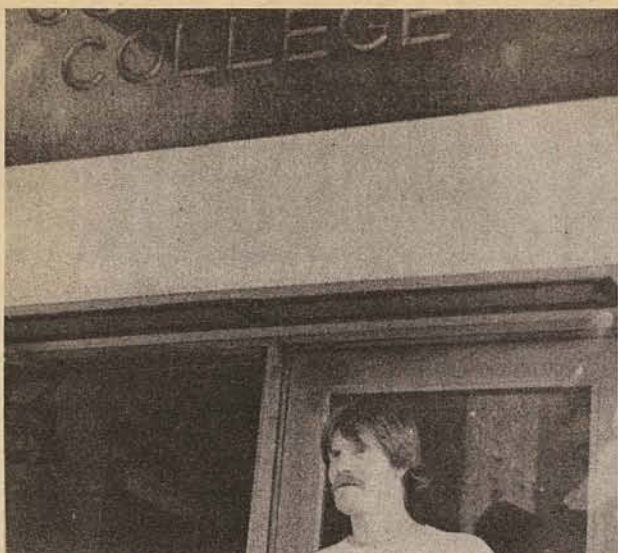


When Diane Cusimaro tried to transfer to Hunter College she lost 31 credits because Hunter wouldn't accept them.

children for which she had gotten 27 credits at Manhattan Community, were rejected by Hunter College. Also, even though Diane passed the math placement test, the administration said she needed to take a remedial math course before she could get credit for her previous math course. This meant that one whole year of college credit was thrown out. Diane tried to fight this by visiting the heads of several departments, all of whom told her there was nothing they could do about the situation.

In 1976 the free tuition in the city university system ended causing more hardship for students. Diane applied for funds through the College Assistance Program as an independent student and for money under the Basic Education Opportunity Grant. Since she was busy during the day, she went to school as an evening student. When she went at night to get some advice regarding financial assistance, she found very few offices opened. The frustration of these experiences made her investigate other city colleges, like Brooklyn College, but she found out the situation was the same all over. Diane was finally able to get a tuition deferment which meant she didn't have to pay tuition that year but would have to pay later.





The new policies in the New York City College system are discouraging students from attending.

"I finally got settled and took a full semester of 18 credits. The first class I went to had 60 students in it - if you got there late you sat in the hall. Also, while there were a lot of Black, Latino and White students in the school, the teachers tried to pit the students against each other. The teachers complained about the size of the classes and without saying it made it clear they thought the reason for it was an open admissions policy. They also promoted racism. They wouldn't say, 'Look at all the Black and Puerto Rican students who are just going to school to get the financial assistance while you White students work so hard in these classes.' Instead they would say, 'Look at all the students you have in the Pinkley Pub (a hangout for Black and Puerto Rican students) listening to Barry White and Santana.' This helped to further divide the students.."

By the end of 1976, the city university system had effectively discouraged one more student. When offered a decent fulltime job, Diane went for it, instead of continuing in college. "If I want to go to school and have my credits accepted, I'll have to go to a private college like N.Y.U. or St. Francis or else go to one of the city universities and sit in the hall. I don't have the money to go to a private school, and with the income I'm making I just have enough to live, and I don't have money to pay for school."

As New York City moves along its course of "Planned Shrinkage," more and more people become victims of this policy. There are many young people in universities around the city who will never be able to develop their potential because of this. O

## CONSUMER WATCH

### Milwaukee Food Co-op Forces Prices Down

(Milw., Wis.) As the popular Southside People's Food Co-op has effectively brought lower priced staple foods to the Southside community, the local food markets have responded by lowering their prices on the same items.

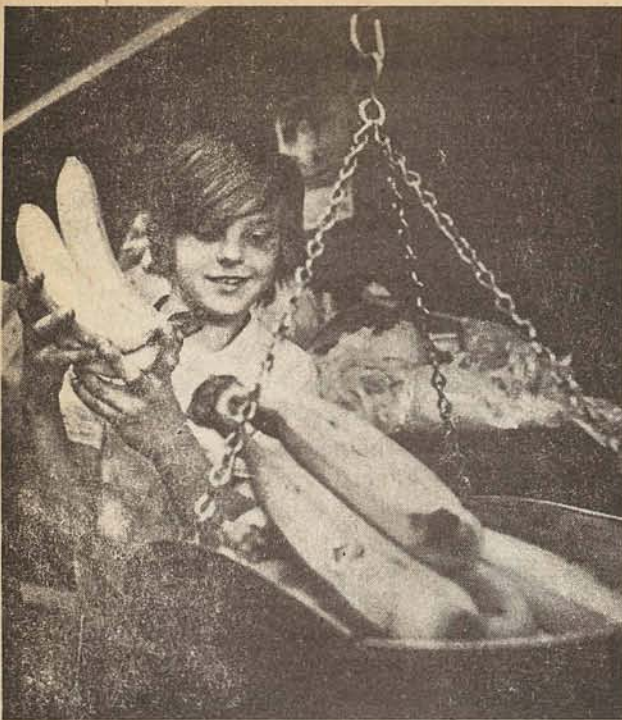
For instance, while eggs are selling for 69-79 cents a dozen in other areas of Milwaukee, the major supermarkets on the Southside are selling them for anywhere from 49-52 cents. This is since the food co-op began to offer eggs for 49 cents a dozen. Co-op workers say that competition with the co-op has also brought fruit and vegetable prices down in the Southside stores, as well.

Dean Loumas, coordinator of the Milwaukee chapter of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, which organized the co-op early this spring, said, "We're glad that A&P, Jahrs and the Red Owl have been forced to lower their prices. This is one of the reasons we started the program. We learned from the example of the Black Panther Party's Breakfast for Children Program in the late sixties and early seventies. The Party, through its example that school children *could* be fed a hot, nourishing breakfast every morning and, in fact, *should* be, forced the federal government to start its own free breakfast program in the elementary schools throughout the country."

"There are many needs that people have on a daily basis that are just questions of survival," Loumas continued. "We feel that the institutions in our communities should respond better to these needs. Sometimes we have to give them a little nudge to show them how to. This is the model that the food co-op provides."

Every Thursday is distribution day at the Southside People's Food Co-op. Seven or eight items chosen by a community staff are offered each week. Co-op workers are enthusiastic about the rapid growth of their operation and are encouraged by the larger stores' response. "We will continue to add items for people to buy until the stores lower all their prices," they say.





Every Thursday is distribution day at the Southside People's Food Co-op.

In reaction to the model provided by this community-run food co-op, new policies have been established at some of the neighborhood stores besides lower prices. On several occasions they have refused to cash people's checks, because, "you'll probably be doing all your shopping at the co-op anyway." In one instance, a 60 year old woman was refused when she tried to cash her social security check, because she is "affiliated with the co-op."D

## RAMK'MFILE

### *S.F., Chicago Taxi Drivers Locked In Heated Battles*

(San Francisco, Calif.) Independent cab drivers are locked in a heated battle over the control of 500 city cab permits here, while in Chicago drivers are protesting attempts to break their union.

Here in San Francisco, cab drivers are fighting an uphill battle to gain control of the permits which were recently awarded to former city

supervisor, Harold Dobbs for \$4.6 million. The permits became available in December of 1976 when C. Arnholt Smith, head of Yellow Cab in California, filed for bankruptcy.

Smith, a prominent figure in the Watergate conspiracy, owned numerous other companies and had been running Yellow Cab at a deficit, taking money out and using it for other businesses. Last year he failed to pay \$1.8 million into the cab drivers' union pension fund. At the end of November in 1976, Smith shut down the company, giving drivers less than 23 hours' notice and telling them to go to the state for back pay.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, thousands of angry cab drivers abandoned their cabs at the height of the rush hour last month at O'Hare International Airport, protesting police harassment. The drivers, who vowed to shut down O'Hare - the world's busiest airport - created a massive traffic jam which stalled rush-hour traffic.

"We get a lot of harassment by the police," one driver said, "anywhere from trying to bust us for diving (going to the lower level without a cab pool ticket) to generally just giving us a hard time. Finally we started sticking together."

Yellow and Checker cab companies in Chicago have set up a leasing system under which drivers can lease a cab on a weekly basis, but don't get



Cab drivers at Chicago's O'Hare airport protest police harassment.



any benefits. Although many of the lease drivers do not want to join the union, sentiment is uniform that the union has a right to exist. After the union organized 1,000 of the 4,000 lease drivers, Yellow and Checker refused to provide benefits, using the rationale that the drivers are not employees but "independent contractors."

Besides this problem, lease drivers face other difficulties. "Commissioned (employed) drivers don't get the trouble we get," says lease driver Terry Jackson. "The Police harass us," he explains. "Most of us have our own C.B. (Citizens' Band) radios and the cops snatch our antennas off."

Another man, a lease driver for six years, said the police ticket them too freely and order cabs out of the long waiting lines. "That means we have to get back in at the end of the line and you can wait for another one or two hours before you get your chance," the driver said.

"It's hard enough to make it as it is. Now the airport wants to charge us for using the staging area (where drivers wait to get their cab pool ticket.) I have to work 16 to 18 hours a day just to put food on the table," said another driver.

In San Francisco, independent drivers face a similar situation. Dobbs was awarded 350 permits (the city announced publicly it would pull 150 permits after the sale) earlier this month. Dobbs has stated his intention to sell 100 permits to 200 drivers (splitting the day and night shifts).

Drivers will then be forced to buy their gasoline, radio service, repairs and garage rental from Dobbs at his price. Drivers will be subject to Dobbs' arbitrary policies and not eligible for the protection which company drivers get from the union.

In February of this year, when bids were being received for the cab permits, Dobbs (a former law partner of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone) and his associates offered a bid of \$2.4 million. After receiving Dobbs' bid federal Judge Katz polled all the drivers who were present at the bid hearing, asking them to bid on their individual cabs and permits.

While the total amount offered by the drivers was much greater than Dobbs' offer, the city then said it would refuse to issue any more permits to individual operators. However, the sale to Dobbs was blocked by an injunction in federal court, stating that other interested parties were not given sufficient time to enter bids.

Then, 26-year-old driver Patrick Shannon

offered \$4.5 million dollars with the backing of a group of local lawyers and businessmen. Shannon had been driving for six months before Yellow Cab folded. But this sale was stopped by an injunction on Dobbs' behalf. Dobbs then bought the permits for \$4.6 million.

The wheeling and dealing by Dobbs and his associates has caused one veteran cab driver to comment, "These permits are being used as a political football. The mayor is doing everything he can to line the pockets of his former law partner . . . The real losers in this deal will be the drivers and their families - who only want to make a living."D

## BLACK LUNG

### *Margaret Beechen Wins Back Pay: "Significant Victory"*

(Chicago, Ill.) A significant victory in the struggle of black lung victims in Chicago was won when Ms. Margaret Beechen, widow of Paul Beechen, successfully re-opened her husband's denied black lung claim, and it was found at a hearing that he had in fact been eligible for



Ms. Margaret Beechen has successfully won her husband's black lung claim after being given the runaround for many years.



benefits when he first applied. Ms. Beechen was represented by the Chicago Area Black Lung Association (CABLA) and by James P. Chapman, general counsel for the Uptown People's Community Service Center.

Her case is representative of many others. Mr. Beechen had been denied benefits after his chest X-ray was read as being negative by government hired readers. No attention was paid to his long history of respiratory problems, nor his many years of exposure to coal dust. When Mr. Beechen died in 1975, he was waiting for a reply to his request for reconsideration. Although the new law, transferring the black lung program to the Department of Labor from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was in effect, Mr. Beechen had a live claim under the old and more lenient law. It was at this time that the local Social Security offices were saying, "We have nothing to do with black lung anymore."

Ms. Beechen went to her local SSA office within two weeks after her husband died. She brought with her a copy of the autopsy report which she wanted attached to her husband's claim. She also went to apply for widows' benefits under the same program. She left the SSA office fully believing that this had been done. Six months later, she received a denial of her husband's request for a reconsideration. There was no mention of the autopsy report. To make matters worse she handed the papers over to a lawyer who knew nothing about black lung and who neglected to request a hearing within the required time limit, telling her after the time limit expired, "You have no case."

When she heard about CABLA and came to the office for an interview, a thorough investigation was begun. It was found that the local Social Security office, without giving her the slightest explanation, had simply filed a new claim under the more difficult Department of Labor program, in effect, cutting Ms. Beechen off from the four years of back pay she would have been entitled to under the old law. No reference was made to the autopsy report in HEW's denial of her husband's claim, because the local office had not even bothered to send them the report.

CABLA immediately demanded a hearing and notified the public officials who had been present at CABLA's public hearings on abuses against black lung victims, of the situation. CABLA, using government regulations, showed that the autopsy findings and the history of Mr. Beechen's problem warranted re-opening the case.

The compelling evidence, plus CABLA's organizing efforts to prove a pattern of abuse,

frightened the SSA bureaucracy into reopening the case. CABLA then prepared for the hearing, gaining expert testimony from a coal field physician who had pioneered in the diagnosis of black lung disease and from a pathologist who is an expert on pneumoconiosis. A man who had worked with Mr. Beechen in the coal mines supplied excellent testimony of the precise nature of Mr. Beechen's work and the extremely dusty conditions in the mines.

The administrative law judge ruled that Mr. Beechen had, in fact, been entitled to benefits and that the benefits he would have received 'til he died would be paid in a lump sum to Ms. Beechen. However, because of the mistake of the local Social Security office when Ms. Beechen went in after her husband's death, she does not technically have a widow's claim on file. Since the law says that a widow whose husband was eligible under the old law must apply within six months of his death, HEW must recognize its own mistake in not filing a claim for her when she first went in there and allow her to now file as a widow under the old law. If they do not agree to this, CABLA has promised to take whatever action is necessary. O

## *A Pattern That Has Become Tragically Familiar*

(Chicago, Ill.) Jose Galvan was a coal miner for 27 years, primarily in the state of West Virginia, having moved there from Texas at age 26. His life story follows a pattern that has become tragically familiar.

In the late 1960's, Mr. Galvan moved to Chicago, already beginning to feel the effects of pneumoconiosis. His struggle to survive brought him back and forth between Chicago and West Virginia. He applied for black lung benefits, got the usual runaround and had the usual farce of a hearing before Judge Charles Dean Connor who handed down the usual negative decision. His wife and family watched the ever worsening cough and shortness of breath and watched his suffering grow worse with the onset of a heart condition in 1975. In March of 1977, he died; and the autopsy report showed pneumoconiosis, fibrosis, anthracosis and cor pulmonale, all of which are related to black lung disease.

When volunteers for the Chicago Area Black Lung Association went through Jose's papers at the request of his widow, we found that





In 1975 Jose Galvan was turned away from the Board of Health clinic in Uptown for treatment of his black lung condition. He died last month.

in 1975 he had gone to the Chicago Board of Health clinic at Hazel and Wilson in the Uptown community. He specifically requested that he be checked out for black lung disease and informed them that in the past, doctors had diagnosed him as positive for pneumoconiosis. He was given an X-ray, and it was noted that there was a "minimal increase in the interstitial pulmonary markings." But it was added that, "The finding is, however, not so marked to correlate pneumoconiosis." In other words, the X-ray was read by the doctors at the clinic as negative. In spite of 27 years in the mines and in spite of his history of black lung, none could be found.

In 1970 Mr. Galvan had been found to be partially disabled by silicosis (a form of pneumoconiosis, otherwise known as black lung disease) by the state of West Virginia. Pneumoconiosis is a progressive, incurable condition which could only have worsened from 1970 to 1975.

In pointing to the need for a comprehensive neighborhood clinic that would take black lung and other oppressed people's diseases seriously, representatives of CABLA pointed to the following grim fact: in CABLA's one brief year of existence, four of its members have died. They worked a total of at least 70 years in the nation's coal mines, and died at an average age of 52 years. O

## **FIGHTING CITY HALL**

### ***N.W. Side Residents Protest Chicago-Oakley' Plan***

(Chicago, Ill.) Hundreds of residents in the Chicago-Oakley neighborhood on the city's northwest side have mounted a forceful campaign to stop the Chicago-Oakley Urban Renewal Project. Under the plan—the city has declared "slum and blighted" two city blocks in the area of the 2200 block of W. Chicago Ave. The city wants to use Community Development Act funds to tear down neighborhood businesses and homes of more than 50 families to pave the way for special projects of the Ukrainian church nearby.

The neighborhood includes a mix of families: Italian, Polish, Russian, Mexican and Puerto Rican. Many of those who will lose their homes and businesses have been in the neighborhood more than 20 years and are angry at the city for never consulting them about the project. One woman, Vera Petschenko, resents the city calling her block a "slum" and sees the Chicago-Oakley plan as just another example of the government forcing people to lose part of their lives, without being consulted. "I will fight," she says. "This is no slum." Similarly, Ray Medina just spent more than \$21,000 to fix up his home on one of the blocks. This even included money he was given by the city and federal government for home improvements. "How can you issue building permits and then tell people they live in a slum?" Medina asked: "Where will we all go?"

Last month PROS, a neighborhood organization opposing the urban renewal project, attempted to meet with city officials. When Lew Hill, Chairman of the Dept. of Development and Planning, came on a tour, he whisked right through the block, never looking at the buildings or talking to any of the people. When PROS and a delegation went to meet with area Alderman Zydlow, they were told the office was closed and then later to "go to hell."

On June 28, however, the residents scored a victory when HUD officials said they will withhold federal funds for the Chicago-Oakley project until they do a thorough investigation on how the city spent its community development money. The city has received more than \$80





Mayor Bilandic: "The community likes the plan."

million in CD funds for the last two years. At a meeting attended by more than 300 people on June 28 at the Sacred Heart Church, regional HUD official Ted Marcian told the group after a tour of the neighborhood that the "area didn't impress him as a slum."

Mayor Bilandic claims that he has talked with area residents and that "they like the plan." But the residents see it differently. They point out that Bilandic's name was attached to the resolution introduced in the council calling for the adoption of the Chicago-Oakley Plan. Residents also point out that no one ever got a phone call or letter from the city about the plan. In fact, the residents only learned about it because a confidential source got a copy of the plan from the Dept. of Urban Renewal.

PROS and the residents of Chicago-Oakley have vowed to carry out their fight. The group hopes to meet soon with Alderman Gabinski of the city council's housing and planning council. They want a meeting in the neighborhood. O

## Jobs For Poor Doled Out To City Workers "

(Chicago, Ill.) When Samuel Bernstein, director of the Mayor's Office of Manpower, announced on May 18 that there were jobs available for low-income, unemployed persons, more than 200 of those jobs had already been doled out to city

employees, according to a *Chicago Tribune* report.

The federally funded CETA jobs are intended for "long-term unemployed, low-income" families. While legitimate applications lay in stacks of unopened envelopes and pushed-aside mailbags, the first 207 jobs available already had been filled by people who took letters from city hall designating them for the positions.

According to a *Tribune* investigation, employees were taken off the city payroll until they qualified as "long-term unemployed" and then hired back under the federal program. The city workers had to be laid off for 15 weeks to qualify, according to John Nunnery, regional administrator of the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor which oversees the program. Some were laid off exactly 15 weeks to the day before being rehired under the CETA program.

Some of those who received the jobs had worked for city hall for as long as ten years. A number of them earned more than \$15,000 last year. Federal guidelines list low-income as no more than \$6,740 for a family of four.

In one example cited by the *Tribune*, a motor truck driver for the Department of Streets and Sanitation who earned \$312 a week was laid off for exactly 15 weeks and then rehired at \$342 a week in the same department under the federally subsidized program.

In another case, a laborer who had been employed for more than ten years in the Department of Streets and Sanitation was laid off from a \$6.81 an hour job and rehired under the federal program at \$8.02 an hour.

The city's action in placing the CETA jobs has raised the anger of many community and civic organizations who know the severe need for jobs throughout Chicago's inner city. This, they say, is just one more piece of evidence that the city of Chicago cannot be trusted with federal funds intended to benefit the city's oppressed communities.D

## Black & Poor Key To Special S.F. Recall Election

(San Francisco, Calif.) Pro-district election forces here in San Francisco are confidently

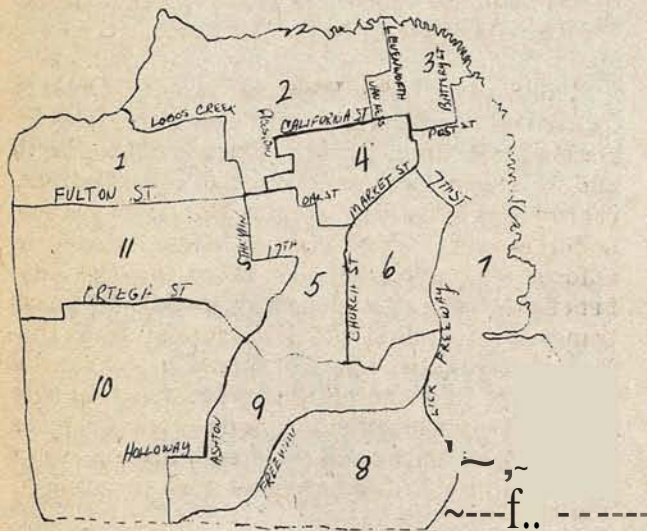


looking forward to a victory in an upcoming August 2 election, provided there is a high voter turnout in the city's Black and poor districts. The "No on A" campaign has a steady stream of support from labor unions, Democratic Party leaders and, most importantly, grassroots community organizations.

In 1976, Proposition T, calling for the establishment of district elections won handily in the city's municipal elections. However, right-wing forces, headed by arch-conservative John Barbagelata, collected over 20,000 signatures to force a special election aimed at repealing Proposition T (Proposition A in the August 2 elections) and calling for the recall of Mayor George Moscone, Sheriff Richard Hongisto and District Attorney Joseph Freitas (Proposition B.) All of these elected officials have been at odds with conservative members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, in particular, Barbagelata.

Barbagelata was narrowly defeated by Moscone in the 1975 mayor's race and Propositions A and B, which he formulated, are apparently part of a personal vendetta against Moscone's administration. However, downtown financial interests are more concerned with abolishing district elections, which have a potential for transforming the political power base in the city.

Under district elections (see map) there is a definite chance that five minority members could be elected to the Board of Supervisors whereas no Black or Third World supervisors have been elected before. Under the plan approved by voters last year for district elections there are five districts in which minorities are the majority.



All of these districts are located in the poorer eastern and southern areas of the city, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*, among them the predominately Latino Mission District, the predominately Black Western Addition, Chinatown and the Black Hunter Point, Portrero Hill districts. Representatives from these districts will be community-based and more concerned with neighborhood problems rather than making San Francisco a tourist center and financial/corporate capital of the West Coast, which has been the preoccupation of previous city administrations.

Jack Webb, chairperson of the successful 1976 drive for district elections, pointed out that since 1964, the city's bonded indebtedness has grown 220 per cent to \$643 million, with only a fifth earmarked for the needs of the residents. "All this shows that the present board," Webb comments, "far from being the tight-fisted conservatives they claim to be, have placed the city in an incredible debt to serve the downtown tourist industry rather than homeowners and their needs. There was a \$134,000 reduction in the Transamerica Pyramid property tax bill... ", Webb continued, "while homeowners' taxes were getting increased. Something's wrong."

A development which may be crucial on August 2 is the coldness of the city's Black community towards the campaigns against A and B. Members of the Black Leadership forum here, for example, have voted to take no stand on Proposition B until agreement is reached on an affirmative action hiring program for San Francisco's \$1.5 billion sewer improvement project.

## Opposition To Westway Mounts

(New York City, N.Y.) Over 100 community, environmental, business and tenants organizations have joined together to stop the proposed Westway Interstate Highway, the billion dollar plus cornerstone to New York's "Planned Shrinkage." (See *KEEP STRONG*; Dec., 1976)

Westway is an 18 lane, triple road highway which would run from Battery Park on the west side of Manhattan's southern tip to 42nd St., linking the Lincoln, Holland and Battery tunnels. An estimated 20,000 commuters would use the proposed 4.2 mile stretch each rush hour. The project would take 10 to 15 years to complete.



Through extensive landfills along the Hudson River a new Manhattan "Gold Coast" with up to 48,000 middle and upper-income, high security housing units would be created.

The opponents of Westway cite numerous potentially disastrous effects of the project on the entire city of New York. Several now stable communities, such as the West Village and Chelsea would be destroyed. The Gansevoort Meat Market at West 14th St. would be forced to closedown. Fifteen firms would be razed to make way for the highway system, while the rest of the market would be choked off. Meat prices would necessarily go up for everyone in the city, and 4,500 jobs would be lost from the meat market alone, while thousands more would be lost since numerous small businesses would not be able to relocate elsewhere. Only 1,500 temporary construction jobs would be created by the project. These local effects would be multiplied several times with the almost certain extension of the Westway north several miles to the George Washington Bridge at the northern end of Manhattan.

Opponents of the Westway maintain that federal transportation funds for the super highway could be "traded in" for mass transportation funds to upgrade and extend the existing mass transit system of subways and buses, now in great need of a major rehaul. If the subway system used by three million people daily is forced to wait to be repaired, it may be too late. Even with extensive mass transit improvements, they say, money would be left over to rebuild the existing Westside Highway which covers the same area as the proposed Westway. The estimated cost of rebuilding this more limited highway would be \$37,000, a far cry from the \$1.6 million needed for the proposed Westway.

The high rise, luxury development projects in the landfill areas would effectively cut off redevelopment funds to the rest of New York City. This means that communities throughout New York City would be redlined for the next 10-15 years. Thus, the city-wide effects of Westway fit right into the overall Masterplan for New York City - "Planned Shrinkage." The ultimate goal of Planned Shrinkage is to reduce the population of the city, especially the majority of Blacks, Puerto Ricans and poor and working Whites. Planned Shrinkage results with the reduction of services - transportation, health care, education, fire protection, etc. - and the deterioration of housing and loss of jobs in the low-income communities. In these ways hundreds of thousands of families will be forced to leave the city with their destination left up in the air.

The forces behind "Planned Shrinkage" and



Westway are the large realtors and financial interests in New York. By no coincidence, some of the land speculators who have bought land along the Westway route, were also large contributors in the election campaign, of Mayor Abe Beame and Governor Hugh Carey, both of whom, again by no coincidence, are the main political backers of Westway. Behind the large realtors are the financial kings, such as David Rockefeller, who seek to develop Manhattan, especially lower Manhattan as the secured nerve center of their empire which stretches to all continents from Puerto Rico to South Africa.

Facing the tremendous power of the backers of Westway, the numerous community organizations which oppose Westway and increasingly "Planned Shrinkage" itself, have been organizing with an unshakeable, determined will ever since the Westway was proposed. Block and neighborhood meetings, petition drives, letter writing campaigns, demonstrations, people to people educational drive and publicity efforts have been carried out over the last five years with a snowballing effect. Opposition has developed, from the lower west side to as far north as 103rd St. to such an extent that political pressure is now being brought to bear on local and state politicians and legislators, many of whom have been forced to come out against the Westway in order to be elected again.

Hopes to kill the Westway are at present focused on two federal suits. These suits, filed by Action for Rational Transit, Friends of the Earth and 19 other local and regional organizations, charge that Westway violates the city's anti-air pollution plan, which Mayor Beame refuses to enforce; that public officials failed to consider a beneficial trade-in of highway money for mass transportation; that the Department of Transportation violated the National Environmental Policy Act in planning Westway; and that city state and regional officials failed to consider mass transit alternatives and violated additional laws relating to public hearings and open planning.



## Welcome Home, Huey!

# "MY BOW IS BENT I AM RETURNING TO FACE FALSE CHARGES"

A shouting, clapping, laughing, crying and extremely happy crowd of over 1,500 choked up the Western Airways terminal at the San Francisco Airport on Sunday, July 3, as the long awaited return of Black Panther Party leader Huey P. Newton became a fact. There were everywhere enthusiastic comments like, "We are starting a new stage in the struggle" as the full reality behind Huey P. Newton's return home sunk in. Indeed, it was hard to believe the state of California would carry on the charade of criminal charges against the dynamic leader much longer.

Only one week before, Newton had announced from Cuba, where he has been living in political exile for three years, that "My bow is bent—I am going back to face false charges." Even the national and local T.V. and news media appeared to be shocked into reflecting quickly on the last 10 years since the Party started. Newscasters

reported matter of factly about the wide range of FBI and CIA "dirty tricks" used as a repression of the Party's activities and the murder of over 30 of its members. This massive 10 year illegal government repression appeared now to be a matter of established fact.

The unspoken admission of Huey's innocence, along with the growing prestige of a Party that has proven itself to the community and elected a mayor of a major American city, was apparent even at the airport. Respecting, perhaps fearing, the mood and opinion of millions of people, no police moved to arrest Huey. Instead, he conducted a press conference, greeted friends and admirers, walked with Party members to his own waiting car and drove openly through five different police jurisdictions to Oakland where he turned himself in.

In his statement to the press, surrounded by



Huey P. Newton welcomes the overflow group of supporters who came to meet him at the San Francisco Airport.





"But," Huey had continued, "there is now a more congenial atmosphere for the kind of court battle that we are going to fight. After all the revelations of recent years, the people are prepared to believe the kind of conspiracies that the government has inflicted upon us. Because of this I depend upon the people's consciousness to give me a fair trial or see to it that I get one."

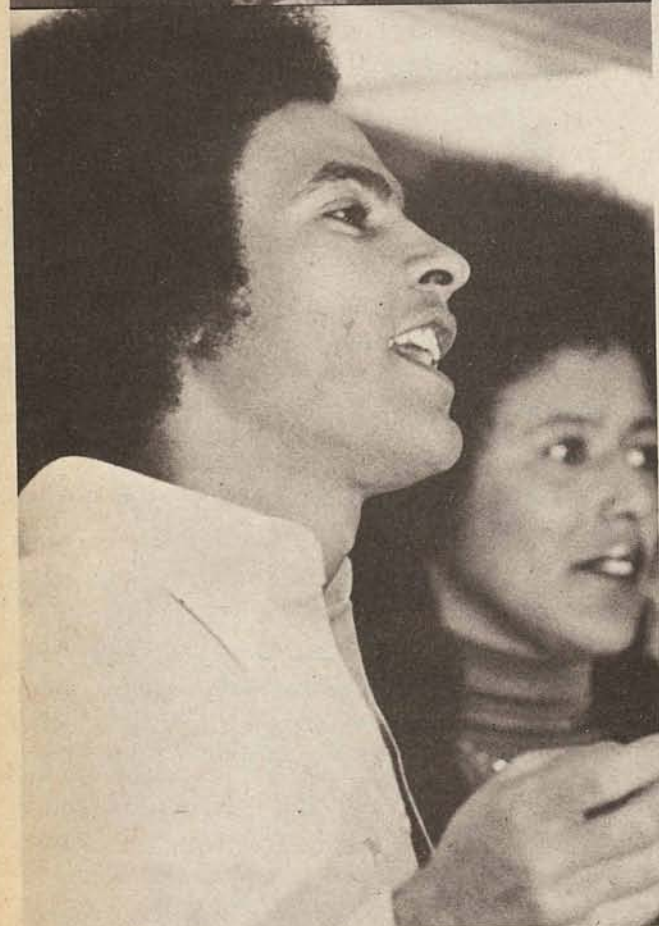
Now, on July 3, with the decision to return behind him, standing before hundreds of cheering supporters, Huey P. Newton is home and ready for the next battle.

## Press Statement by Huey P. Newton at the San Francisco Airport

"I thank the people who helped me return. I express my love and appreciation to all of my friends. I also want to express my love and gratitude to the courageous people of Cuba, who helped me turn the obvious difficulties of exile into a positive and rewarding experience, who befriended me in time of need.

"I am happy to be home. I have returned to be freed of the false charges leveled against me. I want everyone to know I have not killed anyone. I am not guilty of any crimes, including the crime of the so-called tailor who, in fact, is a tailor of assassination, a government provocateur.

"When I left this country I was aware of



The unspoken admission of Huey's innocence, along with the growing prestige of a Party that has proven itself to the community and elected a Black mayor of a major American city, was apparent even at the airport.

an anxiously listening crowd, Huey echoed comments he made before returning home. While realizing that the climate of repression has been reversed to some extent, Huey said he had "no illusions" that the Carter administration was a "fair and just" one. "A change of administration does not mean an end to the system of exploitation which I oppose. Big Business still runs the United States government."





Huey P. Newton being whisked through the enthusiastic crowd of supporters at San Francisco Airport.

a conspiracy to murder me and to destroy the Black Panther Party. This conspiracy was planned by high level government officials using petty criminals to carry out their plan.

"This plan of destruction began 10 years ago. A part of this plan was placing false criminal charges against leaders of the Black Panther Party in an attempt to discredit us. The current charges against me are part of this conspiracy. My name was on Nixon's first 'enemies list.' The Church committee established the existence of anti-Panther programs. All of this, however, is merely the tip of the iceberg. We are suing the persons responsible for such crimes. Their actions must not go unpublicized and unpublished.

"I have returned to continue my commitment to work for progressive change in our society. I will work for full employment and economic redistribution. I will continue

my fight against the system that denies decent housing, clothing, medical care to people, but spends billions on war and carrying out injustices against people. I intend to fight against the evil of heroin sales in our community despite the contract put out on my life by heroin dealers with the knowledge of law enforcement. I call upon the new mayor of Oakland to join us in this effort.

"Now I am going to jail. I believe I will be acquitted, though it will be difficult to get a fair trial. Already the local district attorney has tried to prejudice a fair trial by lying to the Canadian government, causing my false imprisonment. However, I believe the people's consciousness has been raised. What they know and will learn will cause them to demand justice for me, for every human being.

"Stay with me, my friends. I look forward to being closer to you soon." □



# COMMUNITY COALITION CLOSES IN ON CHICAGO MASTERPLAN

For once it appeared that the poor communities in Chicago had gotten themselves together and knew ahead of time exactly what the devious and deceptive downtown business interests and politicians were up to. This time the "established organizations" and the "appointed leaders" and even the press were caught unaware as the Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan caught the city with its pants down.

The event was the filing of a suit by the Chicago Coalition and other community plaintiffs to stop federal legal authorization of the city's Overall Economic Development Plan. The authorization of this plan would have allowed the city to pour hundreds of millions of dollars of federal money into projects like Dearborn Park, a "walled city in the city" for middle and

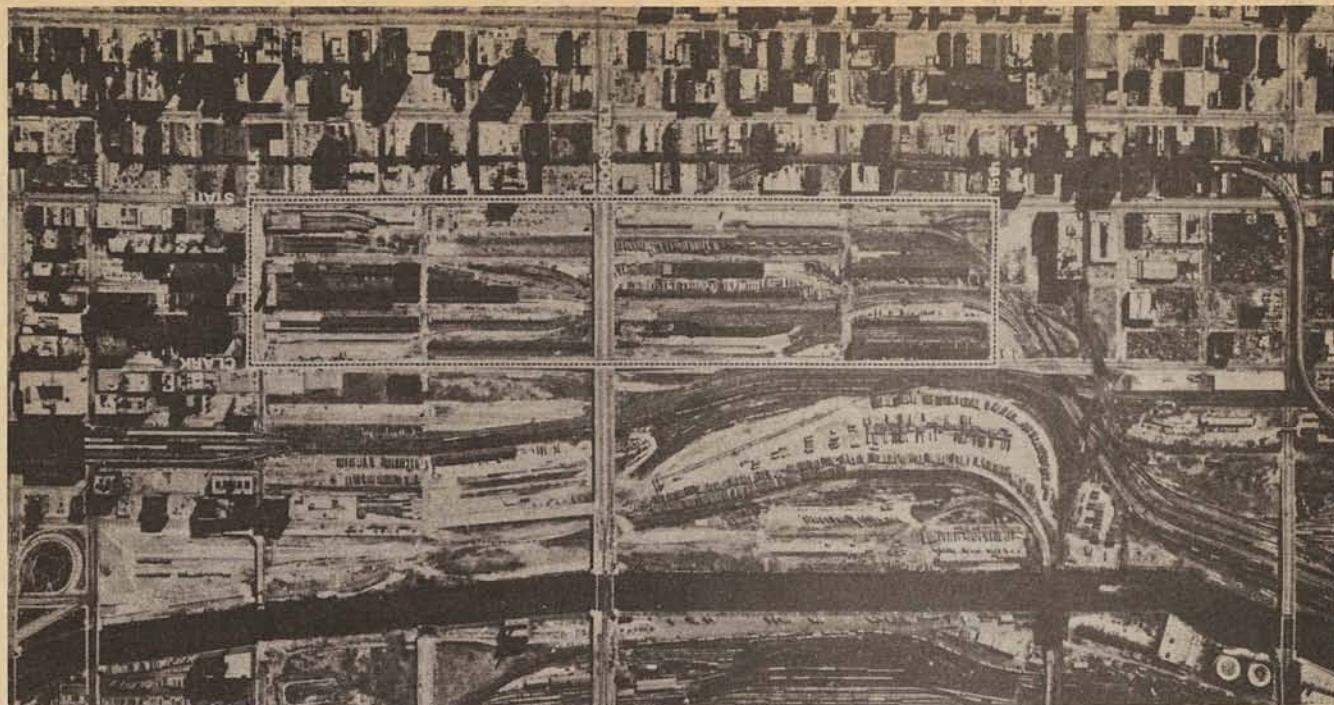
upper-income residents.

Chicago has a long history of applying for federal funds on the basis of the great need of its communities for employment and housing, and then using those funds to urban renew the poor and working people from those communities, making way for the banks and large developers to build high rises for the wealthy. Before Daley died, he and his chosen successor Bilandic had devised a plan to have the whole of Chicago declared a redevelopment area by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The city qualified because of the extreme conditions of unemployment in areas like Uptown, Kenwood-Oakland, Cabrini Green, West Town, Pilsen and Lawndale. But the Daley-Bilandic plan was to have federal redevelopment funds, needed, deserved and



This time the "established organizations" and the "appointed leaders" and even the press were caught unaware as the Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan filed suit to stop federal authorization of the city's Overall Economic Development Plan.





Aerial view of the Dearborn Park project approved last month by the Chicago Plan Commission. Dubbed a "walled city within a city," the Dearborn Park project is characterized as the first step of the city's masterplan to whiten the inner city.

fought for in these communities, go to a carefully selected "Economic Development Commission" which would then distribute the funds according to the approved economic development plan.

The Economic Development Commission is made up of men like Thomas Ayers of Commonwealth Edison, representatives from downtown banks like the First National, developers like Chaddick, and representatives from downtown businesses like Montgomery Ward. The plan submitted to guide this wealthy elite in spending hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funds included the Chicago 21 Plan, the crosstown expressway and many urban removal projects in communities which had previously opposed and in some cases defeated these same projects. The Coalition charged that, in fact, the Overall Economic Development Plan was simply a thin disguise for the city's masterplan to whiten the loop and remove poor people generally from the inner city.

The plan and the elite Economic Development Commission were approved by the city council and were about to be approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce in December when astute researchers for the Stop the Chicago 21 Coalition discovered and exposed its content. Objections were filed with the Chicago office of the Department of Commerce, and meetings were held in Washington, D.C. where Coalition representatives pointed out that the development of the plan violated federal guidelines;

minorities had not been allowed to select their own representatives on the committee that developed the plan; there were no representatives of the unemployed and the underemployed; there had been no citizen participation in the development of the plans; and opposing viewpoints were not included, as prescribed by law.

The Coalition has pointed out often over the last six months that federal laws guaranteeing the rights of the communities had been passed only because of community struggles over the last 15 years. Now the communities themselves would have to fight to have them enforced. In fact, it appeared that the Department of Commerce was going to bow to Chicago's heavy political clout last month. They attempted to "whitewash" the committee that developed the plan by getting certain established citizens' groups from the Black and Latino communities to certify the committee "in retrospect." In lengthy meetings the grass roots coalition persuaded these established groups that they were being used, and they withheld their endorsements. Finally, on June 23, the Coalition filed suit.

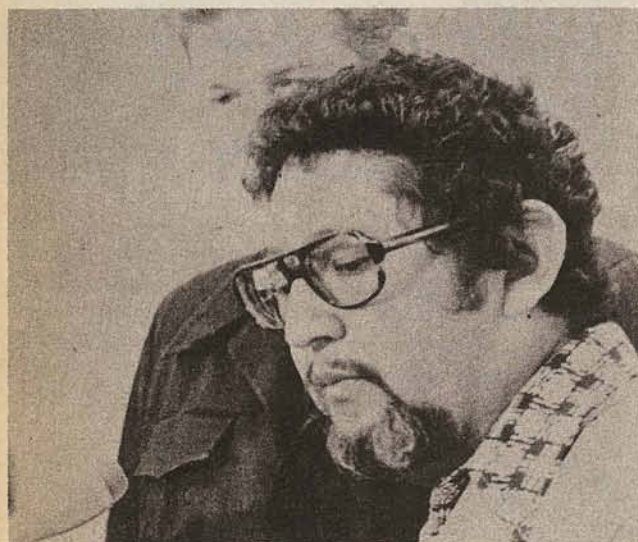
In a press conference held at city hall the Coalition declared that, "Failing negotiations, we have no other recourse but to take this battle for Chicago's future into the federal courts." The press conference itself was held dramatically during the hearings on the Dearborn Park project before the Chicago 21 Plan Commission. In the middle of these hearings, while powerful



businessmen testified in favor of the high security, upper-income housing development, the press followed hundreds of Blacks, Latinos and Whites from the oppressed communities out of the city council chambers into the press room. The conference was chaired by Bob Lucas from the Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization, and the statement was read by Arturo Vasquez of Pilsen and Slim Coleman of Uptown. Then the participant delegations moved back to the city council chambers where they testified against the Dearborn Park project while Coalition attorney James Chapman and staff filed the suit in federal court.

Testimony before the Chicago Plan Commission was often interrupted by the establishment commission members, and heated discussion took place. Dearborn Park was described by the spokespeople from 10 different oppressed communities as the next step in a plan to remove the poor from the city. Darron Perkins, Black Panther Party Chicago Coordinator, commented that "after the civil war we were supposed to get two mules and forty acres. Dearborn Park is getting the forty acres. I guess that means Lawndale will get the two mules." Perkins, along with others testifying, objected to the public money that will go into the project when so little is being invested in the neighborhoods that truly need it.

Marion Stamps of the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization and Slim Coleman from the Intercommunal Survival Committee described in graphic detail the effect that similar projects on the northside like the Carl Sandburg Village have had in leading quickly to the destruction of the surrounding communities. And Arturo Vasquez



Arturo Vasquez pointed out that nothing was being done to protect the people of neighboring Pilsen from the speculators and developers who would follow closely on the heels of the project.



KOCO's Bob Lucas pointed out that even the so-called "private money" going into the project carried some responsibilities to the oppressed community.

pointed out that nothing was being done to protect the people of neighboring Pilsen from the speculators and developers that would follow closely on the heels of the project. In fact, Vasquez charged that the city was already moving on the destruction of the Pilsen community and that Dearborn Park was only a first step.

Perhaps the most moving testimony of the day was given by KOCO's Bob Lucas as he pointed out that even the so-called "private money" going into the project carried some responsibilities to the oppressed community; "This so-called private money, the wealth of the western world, was built on the blood, sweat and tears of Black slaves."

After the hearing, the plan commission passed the project on for approval to the city council, and, visibly shaken, chairman Julian Levi (brother of the former U.S. attorney general) requested police guards to walk him out of the building. The waiting press asked Coalition spokespersons if they intended to file suit against the Dearborn Park project as well as to the general Overall Economic Development Plan. "Of course," was the reply. "It's wrong, isn't it? We will fight every step of the city's masterplan to drive us out in every available arena—in the city council, in the courts and in the streets."

After the day in city hall, the community organizations and concerned community residents returned to the hard day-to-day work of developing concrete programs for survival in their own communities. "We will build in the communities and stalemate them downtown. It is going to be a new day for oppressed communities, united finally throughout the city of Chicago." □



# CARTER'S WAR ON THE POOR

## New Administration Steps Up Welfare Cuts And Attacks On The Unemployed

The Carter administration, working closely with the Department of Labor and state and local officials, has proposed to "scrap" the entire welfare system as it now stands. The Carter plan has been criticized by many grass roots organizations as being worse for the poor than Nixon's flat grant plan was. A final package is expected to go to Congress in early August. If passed into law, it would be implemented over the next three years. Following are the key provisions of the plan and its possible effects on this country's oppressed communities.

Under the Carter plan, the main existing welfare programs (ADC, SSI, and the food stamp program) would be abolished and consolidated into a single cash payment program. The aged, disabled and single parents of children under six would not be expected to work, but would be provided with a federally standardized monthly cash payment. Healthy adults without children under six would be required to work. If they refuse to take the jobs offered to them, they would have their benefits cut. If they did accept the jobs, their earned income would be supplemented with a welfare payment. If they were able to find their own job in the private sector, they would receive more money in their welfare check. If they could not find a private job, they would have to take a public works job and would receive less money in their check.

Under the plan outlined by Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano, unmarried mothers of teenage children would be required to work; a single parent family of four with one or more young children would receive \$4,200 per year, and a two-parent family of four would receive \$2,300 per year or nothing, if one



Jimmy Carter and his Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph Califano, have developed a welfare proposal that is nothing more than a ruthless attack on this country's poor.

of the parents refused to work. Single individuals would receive \$1,200. According to the U.S. Labor Department, a family of four needs \$9,700



to survive.

## Tightening of Eligibility

Generally, eligibility requirements will become much stricter. The government would consider how much income the family earned over the last six months or year in deciding whether or not they were entitled to welfare benefits. Thus, a woman or man who worked for several months in a factory and then suddenly was laid off would be ineligible for the next several months in which he or she had no income. The government justifies the change by saying that families should be able to budget their money so it's available in "lean months."

In addition, the proposed Carter plan would significantly redefine the "filing unit." The government would count income of all blood relatives in the household in determining eligibility for benefits. Thus, an unmarried teenage mother could be ruled ineligible for benefits if her parents' income was higher than the welfare cut off.

Finally, the administration is recommending that welfare recipients be required to report to the local welfare office monthly to declare what their income was the previous month. Critics point out that such a policy will only increase bureaucracy, requiring the employment of many additional caseworkers and causing further hardships for recipients. Past experience, they say, has proven that the effects of this policy are long waits in crowded welfare offices, not less fraud.

## Milwaukee "Pay for Work" Program

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the entire plan is that its success depends on the creation of two million jobs, according to the Carter administration. One wonders at the reasoning behind this when unemployment is still very high throughout the country. Part of the proposal includes cutting out the CETA VI public service program which currently is designed to bring jobs into the major cities with high unemployment for those people who have been unemployed for a long time. These jobs bring in a larger check than current or proposed welfare grants.

A model for what the Carter plan will look like can be seen in the Milwaukee County "Pay for Work" program. This program, which has been



Young mothers living on their own already face problems when they go to local public aid offices. Sheila Hardin (above) was refused an application when she first went to public aid because she was under 18. Carter's proposal would make an already difficult situation worse.

operating for eight years, essentially requires welfare recipients to "work off" their aid. Most of the jobs which are offered to people receiving general assistance are low-paying, dead-end jobs. Charges of exploitation and using those on aid as a source of cheap labor have been brought against the county by such groups as the District Council 48 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Workfare Welfare Coalition.

Under Milwaukee's Pay for Work program, people eligible for welfare were hired at \$2 an hour at the same time that there were civil service jobs and layoffs in the county. Not surprisingly, it was the people on workfare who got the various jobs as custodians, hospital attendants, nurses aides, clerks and others.

A lawsuit was filed by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 48 claiming that this action caused irreparable, substantial and permanent harm to those civil service employees who had been laid off. During testimony by civil service employees, as well as program workers, it was brought out that the program workers, who don't receive any fringe benefits, were paid \$64 a week for doing the same work as civil



service employees who received \$428.77 in a two week period.

## Work For Food Stamps

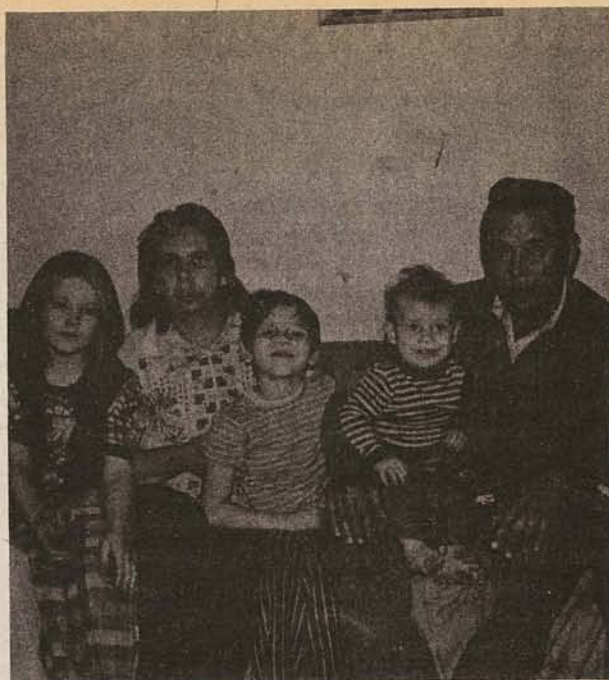
Cooperating with the Carter administration's plan to make healthy adults on welfare work or lose their benefits, Congress recently passed a bill that requires food stamp recipients to work in order to be eligible for food stamps.

The proposal, which is part of proposed legislation passed recently by the House Agricultural Committee, requires that Congress set up a pilot program in each state as well as in Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico; unemployed food stamp recipients with no dependents are required to take any job that pays at least 80% of the state or federal minimum wage. If a person is unable to find a job in the private sector within 30 days, he or she is forced to work for the government for free on the local payroll in order to continue to receive food stamps.

## Shaping Public Opinion

Recently a mysterious Gallup poll was done and released in local newspapers directed at the attitudes of the "urban poor." Welfare recipients were asked if they would move and relocate their families out of the city if the government paid for the move. They would be moved to areas where "living conditions and job opportunities were better," but they would not be guaranteed a job. Although, according to the poll, a small majority said they would move under those conditions, it is not hard to imagine that most people are interested in improving their living conditions and in job opportunities. What can such a vague question really represent, and why was the Gallup poll publicized? Could it be that someone wanted to shape public opinion on this issue? Could it be that Carter's welfare plan is part of the masterplan already being implemented in major cities throughout the United States to move poor and oppressed people from the cities and put them into powerless pockets of poverty throughout the country?

So far the Carter administration has been vague about where the jobs from the private sector will come from. However, a recent study by *The New York Times* indicates that the larger, older industrial cities like Chicago, New York and Milwaukee will suffer most under the new Carter plan. The reason for this is that the CETA VI program, which is scheduled to be phased out, was concentrated in the areas of high



In spite of supposedly broad guidelines for eligibility for food stamps, many people who should be getting stamps have had a hard time with the bureaucracy. Early this year Jack and Mary Benton were told by their caseworker: "I don't care if you starve to death, you move around too much," when they were forced to move because the building they lived in was condemned.

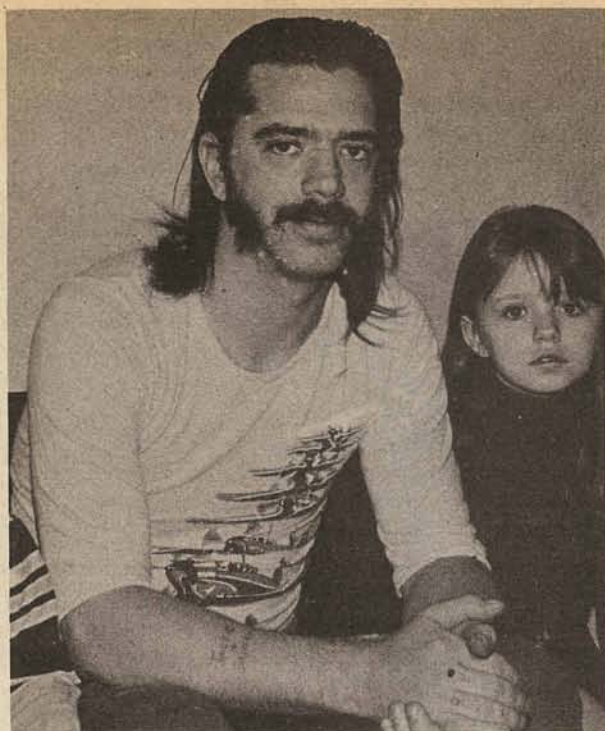
unemployment in these cities. Furthermore, private industry has for the most part abandoned the central cities, leaving little in the way of jobs to offer those who will be forced by the government to work — unless they move to the suburbs and outlying areas where these jobs may (or may not) be available.

## States Take The Initiative

While Carter's program has not yet been made into law, as is customary in such cases, state and local welfare offices are already beginning to implement his policies on their own, stepping up bureaucratic moves to harass and intimidate welfare recipients.

In Illinois, the state is already recommending a phase-out of the present public aid system. In June Governor Thompson recommended that several million dollars currently slated for welfare payments and services be shifted to employment programs. At stake is \$44.4 million to be appropriated for the Governor's Office of Manpower and Human Development. The goal, says Thompson, is to spend state tax money on training the unemployed and getting them jobs. Thus, he says, "We save money on welfare and receive money back in taxes."





When Jackie Collins just barely avoided a near fatal accident on his job, he quit. His employer contested his unemployment. Jackie had to wait for months before clearing this up so he could get the benefits he was due. With the new supreme court decision he would not be able to get aid for his family if the same situation were to happen again.

Also, in June, a 35 page report issued by the Legislative Advisory Committee on Public Aid in Illinois made a series of sweeping recommendations to alter the welfare system in Illinois. Among the key recommendations was one to remove the medicaid program from the Department of Public Aid and consider charging recipients a fee for medical services. According to the state, the purpose of this would be to "discourage unnecessary demands for treatment." Also contained in the report were recommendations to adopt policies which would prevent abuses such as the lending of medical cards to people not eligible for the medicaid program.

In spite of revelations in June in Illinois that hundreds of people on the public payroll (including policemen), many earning as much as \$15,000 a year, have also been receiving welfare payments, recommendations being made by state officials are aimed at preventing abuse by people who legitimately do not have the income for their families to survive in a human and decent manner.

According to sources in Governor Thompson's office, the state of Illinois has been involved with top officials from the Carter administration in pulling together the final draft of a federal

welfare proposal. While details of those meetings have not yet been made public, it has been learned that they include major changes in delivery of social services.

## The Supreme Court Gets In the Act

Setting the trend for drastic changes in the entire welfare system, the U.S. Supreme Court made several rulings in June which are directly in line with the basic outline and sentiments of Cater's plan.

In a 6 to 3 decision, the court ruled that states may choose not to pay for abortions of women on welfare. This action followed a vote by the House of Representatives to cut off all federal funds for abortions. The decision also stated that public hospitals are not required by the constitution to provide facilities for abortions which are not medically necessary.

Secondly, the court ruled that states may deny welfare benefits to children of fathers who become unemployed as the result of strike activity, misconduct on the job or a personal decision to quit. While this decision stands as a warning to men who are active in the struggle for better working conditions that they had better be careful about what they say and do, it also will likely result in the breaking up of families. Families with no income who are in such a situation will have no choice but to have the father move out so that the mother can apply for ADC.

However, even here there is a catch; in the third court ruling, the supreme court upheld a federal court decision handed down last November that allows states to deny ADC benefits to unmarried, divorced or separated mothers who do not cooperate with the government in locating the fathers of their children.

## What Does All This Mean?

In the real world, in the very real day to day struggle to survive faced by the majority of people who will be affected by these new policies, laws and programs, what does all this mean?

Mable Galloway has been going to court for five years. Each month she has to find someone to watch her four children, or else drag them with her down to LaSalle St. If she doesn't do this



she will get cut off public aid which is the only means of support she and her children have. The purpose of the court dates is to get her ex-husband to support his children, at the insistence of public aid.

Every time she goes to court they say it is continued, and she has to go back next month. At one point the case was thrown out of court, because the statute of limitations had run out, but the next month they started all over again with a new case.

Mabel's youngest son has a different father. Mabel has not told public aid who the father is, nor has she asked for any aid for her youngest son. In her opinion it would be a waste of time for everyone concerned to take him to court, because he has no money. She was never married to him, and whereas she felt her husband did have an obligation to support his children, she does not feel the father of her youngest son has that obligation. It would also mean more court dates, dragging the kids around, leaving them alone or paying someone to watch them — and all for what? The man doesn't have any means of support anyway, even if she did go through all that.

Now welfare is telling her that she has to get her younger son on aid or get rid of him. If she doesn't, they will cut her off altogether. Their reasoning is that policy states if you are on food stamps, you can't have anybody eat with you who is not on food stamps.

## Someone Has To Pay

Donna Merchant's baby was born last August. Unable to work, she applied for ADC. At that time she was planning to get married, and when they asked her at public aid who the father of the baby was, she gave them her fiance's name. Although he was not really the father, she felt this would avoid a whole lot of problems. She signed a paper to this affect, because they told her if she didn't, she would not be eligible for aid.

The welfare department then decided to prosecute Ms. Merchant's fiance for child support. She then realized the intent of public aid in asking her so many questions and when she told them the name of the real father. They refused to believe her and said she would have to sign papers and take her fiance to court, or they would cut her off the grant. That is exactly what they did and left her with \$69.00 a month for her and the baby. Their reason was "Non-cooperation."



Mabel Galloway has been told she will have to either put her youngest son on aid or get rid of him. Her only way out would be to help public aid find her son's father who has no money to pay them anyway for support.

They also brought both Donna and her fiance to court and said if he didn't show up, they would issue a warrant for his arrest. He is working out of daily pay and barely has enough to survive on himself, much less pay child support. Welfare has kept the pressure on, and they have decided to go ahead and sign paternity papers. They won't be able to force him to pay anyway, because he doesn't make enough money, but like Donna said, "Those people at welfare just want somebody to pay. They don't care if it's even the real father or not. A lot of people in my position just break down and take somebody to court, so they don't get cut off."

## Don't Make It Too Easy

Section 349.5 of the New York State welfare regulations defines an emancipated minor as a person "over sixteen years of age who has completed his compulsory education, who is living separate or apart from family and is not in receipt of or in need of foster care."

Susan Kennedy is a 19 year old White sister who is struggling to survive. She graduated from high school and moved out of her house so her



parents no longer have the burden of supporting her. She is trying to make it on her own, like many other young people. Susan is currently on probation for a minor misdemeanor case, which has made it hard for her to find work.

About two months ago she went down to the public aid office on 34th St. in Manhattan to apply for aid. In talking to an intake worker there, Susan was told she wasn't eligible, even though she didn't have any source of income, because her father was receiving a veteran's disability pension. She went back to the office about two months later still with no job and two months more desperate in her situation.

This time she got to sit down with an income maintenance specialist at the welfare department. The specialist calculated that Susan's income was zero, therefore, she was entitled to aid. They told her there was only one catch — she had to take her disabled father to family court and file a support petition to establish that he couldn't support her. This process would take another four to six weeks during which time she would have to wait. Susan left the welfare office angry and disgusted at the thought of having to take her father to family court and go another six weeks without any money.

"You hear about the problems of crime on the streets, everytime you turn on the T.V.," Susan said. "They tell people to go out and get a job. What do you do when you don't have any money coming in to get nice clothes to get a job? I'm trying to stay clean and out of trouble, but it seems the harder I try, the harder they make it. Now they want me to take my disabled father to court. They want me to wait another month or two, take my father to court, and then maybe, if I'm lucky, I'll get some results. It's situations like this that make people desperate and do crazy things," she concluded.

## Carter, Welfare and the Masterplan

The stories, of course, go on. And as Carter's welfare program is becoming more of a reality each day, one can only imagine what is in store for the poor when it actually becomes law.

While playing to the right-wing sentiments in the anti-abortion movement and such forces as those represented by Anita Bryant, the Carter welfare plan is clearly a tool to disperse the growing concentration of unemployed and poor in the central cities. Federal funds available



Mae Pederson has had a running battle with Social Security over her check. Every few months Mae has been getting letters telling her a mistake was made. Usually Mae has ended up paying back Social Security for the mistakes they have made. What additional hardships will Mae face with the Carter plan?

through such programs as the Housing and Community Development Act and the Department of Commerce will be used to create a large number of public works jobs.

But the evidence suggests that these jobs will only last as long as it takes for the infrastructure of middle and upper-income private developments to be built and the stage to be set to attract the affluent back to the cities. By then, it is hoped, those who live in the cities now, who have been forced to build the cities for other people, will be gone.

Federal, state and local officials have failed to guarantee benefits from these welfare plans. Most clearly what they represent is a reactionary movement designed to deal a death blow to a growing resistance movement for jobs, housing, education and justice forged by Black, Latino and poor and working White people, especially those concentrated in this country's urban centers. □



# CITIZENS GROUP STOPS ZONING CHANGES

## Bois d'Arc Patriots Organize Broad Community Coalition

Demanding the stabilization of the racially and economically mixed East Dallas, Texas community, a broad coalition of tenants, homeowners, small landlords and businessmen has mounted a dynamic campaign to force the city to shelve its proposal to rezone their community. The Citizens against Blanket Zoning was organized six months ago as a temporary coalition to deal with one issue: Stop the city from blanket zoning East Dallas.

A blanket zoning ordinance would make it mandatory for anyone buying property in the neighborhood to use that property only for single

family housing. In other words, all housing that is not now single family housing would have to be transformed into single family dwellings over the next several years or eventually face being torn down. Anyone moving in would have to reconvert the property they acquired. This would mean, the Coalition argues, that to move into this neighborhood, you would have to have a good amount of money to pay for the necessary rehabilitation.

Those who will be hurt most by this plan are the many low-income families who rent apartments and the many elderly now in the



Bois d'Arc Patriots, serving the people through a variety of survival programs in East Dallas, Texas.





Patriots organize to save Mt. Auburn neighborhood from city redevelopment plans.

neighborhood. Many people who have worked all their lives and have bought duplexes, in which they live in one apartment and rent out the other in order to supplement their social security checks, would be hurt by this change. Their property values will go down, and they face losing their homes, which for many is all they have.

Although the city planning commission has tried to reduce the Coalition's fears that their community will be forced into an undesirable change for most of its current residents, people from urban rehabilitation and HUD have agreed that property values will be lowered, and people with less money will be forced to move. "While the city has told us 'Don't worry, it will take a long time,'" a Coalition spokesperson pointed out that "the city gives no explanation for what's going to happen to people who are forced to leave."

The Coalition was originally organized by the Bois d'Arc Patriots. Although the Patriots have had occasion to be on the other side of the fence from some of the small landlords while doing tenant counseling over the last ten years, they have had no difficulty in working together in the Coalition. "Small homeowners and tenants have a mutual interest. Anything that hurts one hurts them both in the neighborhood." The Patriots have worked very hard to get the small landlords to come to this understanding.

"The Patriots," explained an organizer for the Bois d'Arc Patriots, "is a community group in the

East Dallas area working for the benefit of current residents to try to promote ends that will best support the needs of current residents." They have organized the Santa Fe Homeowners' Association and the Mt. Auburn Homeowners' Association under the banner of the East Dallas Tenants' and Small Homeowners' Alliance. The alliance successfully lobbied for a loan law to be passed in the state legislature which provides loans at low interest to owner-occupied buildings.

A city council meeting to be held on August 17 has the blanket zoning ordinance on its agenda. As a result of the Coalition's campaign over the last six months, combined with the pressure from other city-wide business groups and the Chamber of Commerce who have their own problems with the proposed zoning change, the ordinance is expected to be sent back to the city's urban planning department. Coalition members feel that the city's strategy will be to get the law out of sight while opposition is intense in hopes that they can sneak it through at a later date. The city may be able to get away with that tactic on the Chamber of Commerce and other businessmen, they say, "But they won't get us off their backs."

Meanwhile, the Coalition is turning its attention to securing more of a say in the planning of their neighborhood for the people who currently live there. In an unprecedented move they are demanding that neighborhood meetings be called by the city so small property owners have direct input as to how the land they own will be zoned and used. □



# FIRE INSURANCE REDLINING

(Greenpoint, Brooklyn) Fire insurance is very important to small homeowners, especially those in poor and working neighborhoods, who have their life savings tied up in their homes. As insurance companies redline particular neighborhoods to deny fire insurance, their survival is at stake. The way fire insurance redlining works is that insurance companies determine that certain communities or certain buildings in communities are "high risks." This means that the insurance companies do not want to insure them privately because they think there is a good chance there will be a fire, and they will "lose their investment." These buildings or communities can instead get fire insurance under the government insurance pool called the "fair plan."

The fair plan was adopted in the late 1960's and is an insurance pool for "high risk" areas; all the insurance companies put a certain amount of money into the pool, and when people who live in these neighborhoods want to get fire insurance for their homes, instead of getting it from a

particular company, they get it from the state fair plan. The insurance rates for the fair plan are much higher. For example, the same house that might be insured in a suburban community for \$100 a year from a private company would be charged \$300 a year in a community in the city that falls under the fair plan. In addition, in New York State it is the insurance companies themselves that determine what the fair plan rates are, so that insurance companies can raise the rates as high as they want.

The results of this fair plan fire insurance redlining have been disastrous for communities like Greenpoint-Northside, Williamsburg, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick and other areas where poor and working people own or are buying their homes. In 1973 and 1974 private insurance companies like the Hartford Insurance Group started to raid the fair plan insurance. They started to take some communities or houses that were on the plan, off the plan and insure them privately. This meant that communities and



The fair plan policy has not helped the Greenpoint community.





A fire at Driggs and N. 8th St. last February almost totally destroyed the building because of lack of fire protection.

houses that were still on the fair plan had to pay higher rates. The insurance companies did this by saying that they were losing too much money on their insurance investments so they needed to raise their rates.

In the last two years the fair plan fire insurance rates have gone up 200 to 300%. In addition, people used to be able to get three year fire insurance policies. Now the longest policy anyone in a high risk area can get is a one year policy, which means that they have to pay money to the insurance company every year. The results of these cutthroat policies are that small homeowners who can't afford to carry fire



In 1973 and 1974 private insurance companies like the Hartford Insurance Group started to raid the fair plan insurance.

insurance anymore, have to pay the cost of damages themselves when a fire takes place on their property. Most of the time small homeowners lose their life savings in a fire.

Last February, there was a fire in Greenpoint-Northside, on Driggs and N. 8th St. The fire occurred at night, and because of the lack of fire protection, the building was almost totally destroyed. The owner of the building did not have fire insurance. Five months later the burned out building is still standing there. In another example, there is a house of N. 6th St. where in the last two years the rates have gone up from \$140 a year to \$550 a year. The owner could no longer afford to keep the fire insurance so he took a chance and dropped the policy.

In another case someone's fire insurance rates went up from \$220 a year to \$850 a year. Once



The owner of this building could no longer afford fire insurance, so he took a chance and dropped his policy.

again the person found the rates impossible to meet and dropped the fire insurance policy. The rise in rates especially affects people on fixed incomes, like senior citizens on pensions or social security who worked their entire lives, now own their own homes and are in very real danger of losing them.

Fire insurance redlining contributes greatly to the destruction of communities. As the rates go up, people in an affected community have three ways to respond — sell their house, take the chance of not having a fire or buy the insurance at outrageous prices and go without other necessities. This opens up these communities to real estate speculators, who either by arson or "persuasion" can take control of whole communities and redevelop them, destroying the community that once existed. □



# "WE WANT TO RESTORE THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY"

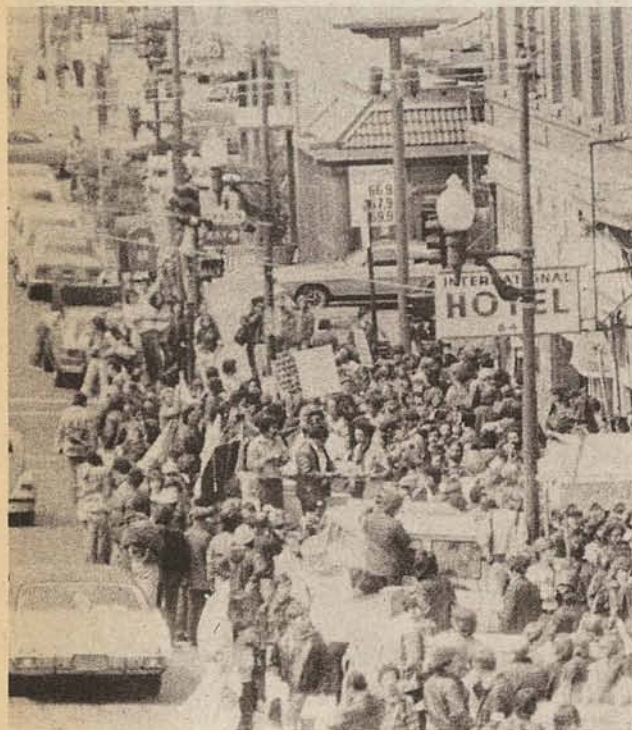
(San Francisco, Calif.) There are more than 100,000 Oriental people living in San Francisco. The area called Chinatown is the largest concentration of Oriental people on the North American continent. A walk on the streets of the city tells you that Asian people, by sheer virtue of their numbers, present a progressive political threat to the power structure. In the area immediately next to Chinatown, a Filipino community known as Manilatown grew to prominent size during the depression years. The ten block area of 10,000 Filipinos developed because Filipino people were excluded from living in many other neighborhoods. The center of this Manilatown community was a place called the International Hotel which served both as a

stopping place for immigrating and traveling Filipino workers, as well as a place where people knew they could always get some help.

In 1968-69 the 150-unit building was acquired by a real estate investment group called Milton Meyer Co. They planned to tear it down and use the space for a parking lot. The tenants organized and resisted the evictions, eventually forcing Meyer and company to sell the building. In March, 1974, the Hotel was sold to a group of Asian businessmen based in Hong Kong and Bangkok, called the Four Seas Investment Corporation. From that point until today the tenants and their supporters have resisted a series of attempts to evict them and tear the building down. Recently *KEEP STRONG* spoke with two residents of the International Hotel. Felix Ayson and Wahat Tompao have been active in the struggle here since the beginning.

Mr. Ayson: "We have suffered so much since the depression. When I left my home in the Philippines in 1926, I came to San Francisco, to the International Hotel. It was hard to find a job. I was a busboy, washed dishes and did other restaurant jobs. In the summers I traveled. We traveled for free on the freight trains because the box cars were empty. I could find work in the country. I worked in the canneries and on the fishing boats in Alaska. When the winters came I returned to the city and the International Hotel.

"The International Hotel is my home. I retired in 1968, and I stayed here permanently until now. I can find a true friend here. We know our neighbors. We feel like we belong to one family under one roof. This is why we are working hard to protect our home now, the home of the first Oriental people here, the place where they could find help. We recognize this as our center — the center of the Orientals."



Tenants and their supporters have resisted eviction from the I-Hotel.



Mr. Tompao: "A long time ago, in 1929, the whole area from Jackson to California along Kearny Street was called Manilatown. People came here because shopping was close, food was cheap and their friends and relatives lived in the area. In 1968 and 1969 the last owner tried to evict the tenants, but we fought it. There was a fire that killed three people, but there was no explanation for it."

Mr. Ayson: "We are asking the city to buy this hotel as its responsibility to provide us with low rent housing. The city planned to buy the building using eminent domain and sell it to us. We were never consulted. They expected us to pay back the loan in one year. We were opposed to that plan because we could not raise enough money to pay it back. That is why we were

by that? We are citizens. Mahaguna (the President of Four Seas) doesn't even live in this country. Why didn't he tell Four Seas that they shouldn't be here in the first place?"

Mr. Ayson: "Our fight for the Hotel will set an example for the other localities. The result of this fight will have broad effects throughout the country and will help other people in the same situation."

Mr. Tompao: "We don't want our association to be destroyed. We want to stay together as a group. It doesn't make sense to give up right away."

Mr. Ayson: "I have felt the oppression of the people. Our fight is a human rights fight. By



San Francisco's masterplan to become "the Wall Street of the West" does not include the Filipino residents of the I-Hotel.

against the Buy Back Plan. It has been ruled illegal by the judge and should be dropped. I feel glad to hear that. Now we can start a new plan. We believe that the city should use eminent domain. They can get federal housing money to buy the Hotel. But instead of trying to sell it to us, they should make it into public housing, run by the Tenants Association."

Mr. Tompao: "We did not make the Buy Back Plan. We knew that plan would stop us from getting the building. It was never intended to help us; only to slow us down. The San Francisco Housing Authority has given us a list of 18 buildings which they have for senior citizens. Each of the buildings has only three or four empty apartments. We do not want to be separated. We know that there are 5,000 senior citizens on waiting lists for these same apartments, and we must ask why the city is willing to jump us ahead of all these other people."

Mr. Ayson: "Once we were in court, the judge, Judge Brown, said that we really shouldn't have been in this hotel in the first place. Why should he talk like that? What did he mean

saving the Hotel we are saving the respect for human dignity. We want to restore that. By saving the respect for human dignity, we are helping to save the human race."

San Francisco's masterplan to become "The Wall Street of the West" has been directed against Chinatown, as well as the Black communities in the Western Addition and Fillmore, and lately, the Latino community in the Mission District. In the 1960's and 1970's, developers and financiers have destroyed large amounts of low-income housing and neighborhood businesses. The 10 block area that was once Manilatown is now one block. The International Hotel sits on most of that one block. The rest of the community is now Banks of America, Holiday Inns, Transamerica Corps. or parking lots for their guests or employees.

As the date of the expected eviction draws nearer, the tenants remain determined to stay and fight. They have put forth a new plan calling on the city to buy the building and declare it public housing managed by the tenants themselves. □



## CONCLUSION

# JOSE "PEPE" MEDINA: Struggle on Both Sides of the Border

*As media attention has been focused on the undocumented worker in this country, the presence of Immigration and Naturalization Service agents in communities where many Spanish-speaking people live has been stepped up. The mounting hysteria campaign to shape public opinion against undocumented workers has met increased resistance. The myth is slowly being destroyed that the reason we have high unemployment is because we have many people taking our jobs who don't belong in this country. Instrumental in this defense of the undocumented has been the movement that has been built around the case of Jose "Pepe" Medina. This month KEEP STRONG concludes a five part series-interview with Jose Medina and the struggle on both sides of the border.*

"The 14th of May was the first day that I had my hearing in court. When you are released on a bond, you have a right to appear in court on a court hearing, according to immigration law. So, on the 14th I appeared before a judge, and it was continued for one month, because they did not have any translators and would not have any until the month of July. We began to form a defense committee.

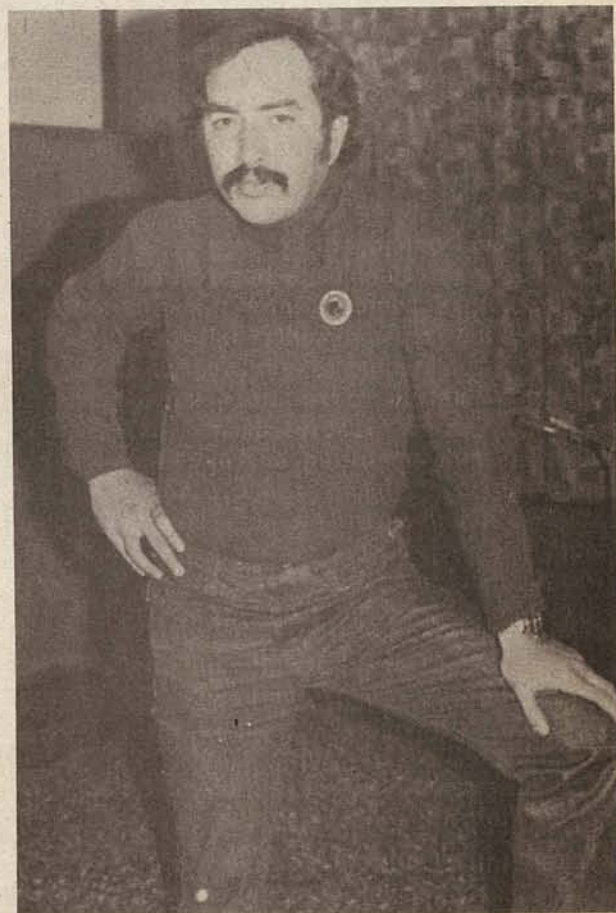
"The judge I was going to have my hearing with was Benjamin Meyer. He has a notorious reputation for having the largest number of deportations being heard in his court. It was obvious that the judge was prejudiced. He did not want to do anything to extend any of the rights of undocumented workers.

"At the first hearing I appeared without a lawyer. I told the court that I needed to have one and that I needed more time to build my defense. The judge granted me a public defender, but refused to give me any more time. But for me it was a matter of life or death, and I needed to have more time."

In this way began the long court battle for political asylum and against deportation for Jose

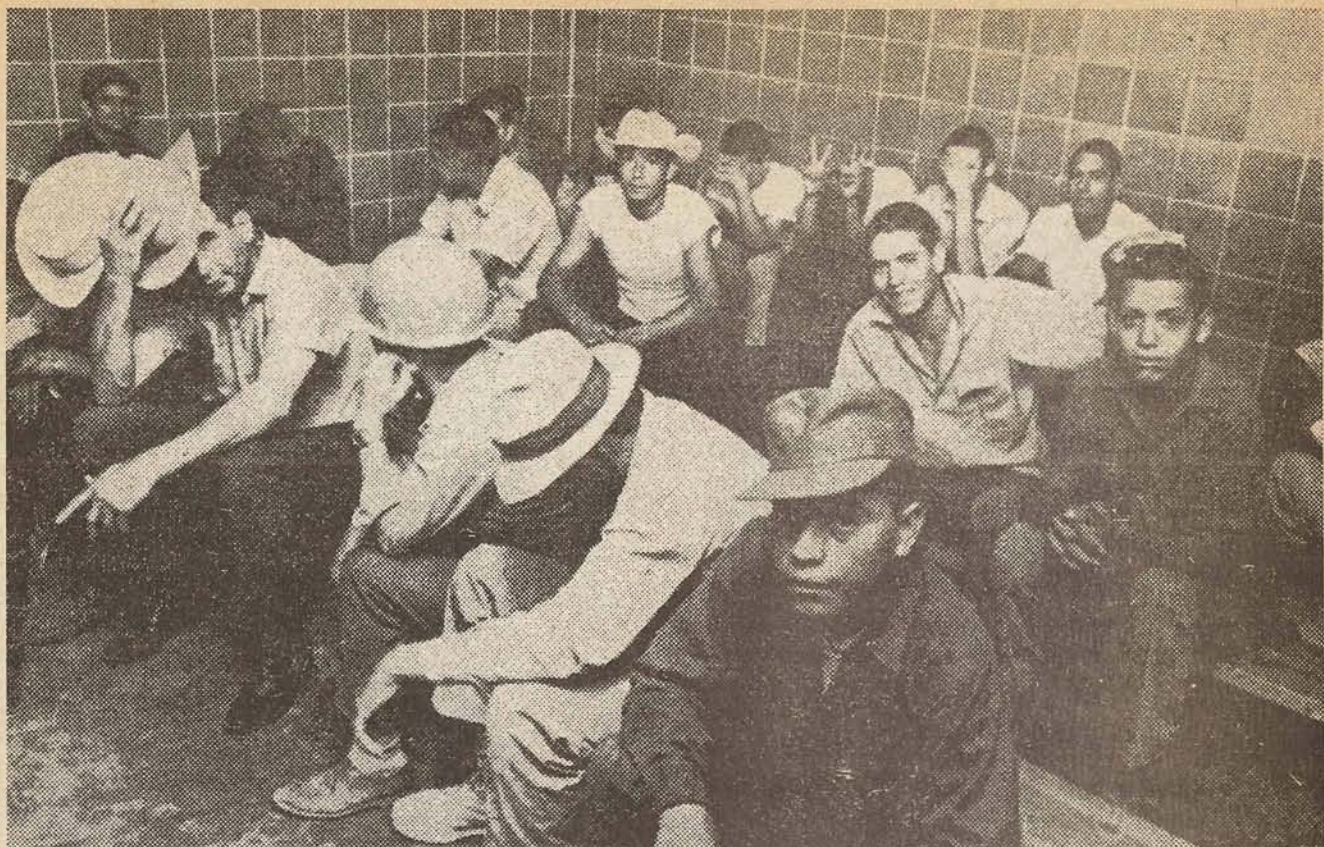
that is still going on one year later. In the last year there have been numerous court hearings and almost as many battles for Medina to get a fair and just hearing of his case. As Medina describes:

"On the eighth hearing we began the deportation proceedings. The government lawyer asked to present evidence and show that I was deportable. The charges against me were that I entered without inspection, that I entered at some unknown place and that I entered on some unknown date. They began interrogating



Jose "Pepe" Medina





Undocumented workers do not even have the right to a job, food stamps or any social services or survival within this country.

me. They asked me what my name was, and I responded, 'Jose Jacques Medina.' Where was I born? I took the fifth amendment, refusing to answer because it might incriminate me. The lawyer asked me where I wanted to be deported to. At that point I began to analyze different conditions in different countries. I began to talk about Chile and explained that I didn't really want to go there because of all the deaths and massacres. I didn't want to go to Angola because of the conditions. I couldn't go to Cuba because there are no direct relations between Cuba and the U.S. Never once did I mention anything about Mexico.

"I refused to answer after about a half hour. It was at this point that the government attorney began pulling out his hair. The government has to prove my nationality, where I was born and where I was from. This is what many of our people don't understand. They answer these questions not realizing that the burden of proof is on those who accuse us of committing a crime.

"Acting as if he had a card under his sleeve, the government attorney, all of a sudden, pulled out a birth certificate. He asked me to look at it and tell him if it was mine. I said the name on it was mine, but that I was not a piece of paper. I remarked that if I was a piece of paper, the judge

was a piece of wood, because on his bench was his name written in wood. Then I refused to answer any more questions, taking the fifth amendment. This was driving them crazy."

Last fall the defense committee began to build steam. Since then many rallies and demonstrations have been organized, demanding justice for Jose Medina in major cities all over the country. Although Medina was refused political asylum in a hearing this spring, he is appealing the decision. For the time being his deportation remains at a standstill. As a political activist and an individual who constantly involves himself in the struggle for social justice, on both sides of the border, Medina sees his case as an example, in defense of all undocumented workers. His situation is representative of thousands of others.

"Within all that has been happening, there is a certain reality that I have to face. As an undocumented person, I have no right to anything. For example, I do not have a right to a driver's license. I do not have a right to medical assistance. I do not have a right to a job or food stamps. In other words, I do not even have the right to any social services or survival within this country. That is the reality of an undocumented person in the United States." □



# NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

## Goya Faces Strike & Possible Boycott

(Seacacus, N.J.) Goya, which for years almost entirely has controlled the Latin food products industry, now faces the possibility of an organized boycott in support of a workers' strike currently in progress at its plant here.

The firm, which maintains plants in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and the U.S., was struck by workers employed at its New Jersey plant on May 31.

The conflict sheds light on both boss-worker relationships at the plant and on the situation of unions which organize Puerto Rican workers.

Central to the conflict is the presence, as worker representative, of Local 481, the Indus-

trial-Technical Production Union, a union whose President Francisco Roman has been the brunt of accusations of mis-representation and "sweet-heart" contracts with Goya's management.

Roman, who maintains offices in Brooklyn, has been singled out for his lackadaisical representation of the workers.

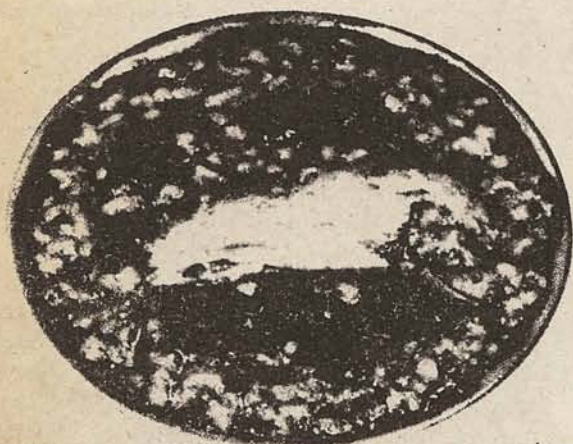
"The man is a gangster, a thug and pro-boss." One worker told *Claridad*, "We'll get nowhere with that union."

Many of the workers asked that the Amalgamated Food and Clothing Workers, Local 56, an AFL-CIO union, be brought in, and elections for union certification were scheduled last month.

The union election is complicated by the fact that the workers have no contract and are, in fact, on strike. The contract, which expired at the end of May, was still being negotiated when, according to workers, management demonstrated what they called "bad faith" in talks.

"After we confronted them on their bad faith for months," spokesmen for the negotiating team told *Claridad*, "They hired a thug."

Gilberto Soto, who was hired on as a worker, had been working at the plant for four days when



INGREDIENTS: Water, Chicken wing, gizzard, Tomato sauce, Rice, Pimiento, Green peppers, Salt, Onion, Potatoes, Pork fatback, Lard colored with Annatto Seed, Olive Oil, Monosodium Glutamate, Sweet peppers, Coriander, Black pepper, Garlic, Oregano.

INGREDIENTES: Agua, Ala de pollo, molleja, Salsa de tomate, Arroz, Pimientos morrones, Pimientos verdes, Saborizante, Papas, Tocino, Achiote, Aceite de oliva, Glutamato Monosodico, Ají dulce, Pimiento, Coriandro, Pimiento negro molido.

Goya food products faces the possibility of an organized boycott in support of a workers' strike currently in progress at its New Jersey plant.

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he allegedly attacked Felix Flores, a member of the negotiating team. Witnesses claim that Soto repeated, "You're the leader here," as he beat Flores up. As a result of the attack, Goya's Head of Personnel fired both workers.

The strike was sparked by the Personnel Head, Mr. Oter, when he asked eleven workers to meet with him outside the plant. When the eleven, who asked for the meeting to present their side of the story about the fight between Flores and Soto, left the plant, they were locked out. "Velez closed the doors and told us we wouldn't get back in," one worker said.

The workers then set the May 31 date as the deadline for negotiations of the contract and the re-hiring of all fired workers. When the deadline passed without management action, all the Goya workers struck the company.

"During all that time," a worker told *Claridad*, "Roman's union never gave us any support. He is lined up with the bosses and we are fighting against his union just as much as against the boss."

Besides the obviously unfair labor practices and management coercion evident in the case, the Goya strike has attracted much attention because of what Goya is.

"Why should people eat their products while they are exploiting Puerto Ricans. It is the Puerto Rican people who keep them in business," the team spokesman told us.

As a consequence, the workers are calling for a full boycott of Goya products. "Maybe this will force them to listen and act in good faith."

*Reprinted from Claridad*

## 300,000 Rally For Human Rights In S.F. Gay Freedom Day Parade

(San Francisco, Calif.) Joining together to express their bitter contempt for the Anita Bryant-led anti-homosexual crusade in Dade County, Florida, and their outrage over the vicious slaying of a gay gardner here, close to

300,000 gay people and their supporters turned out to take part in San Francisco's fifth annual Gay Freedom Day Parade.

With a heavy emphasis on human rights, the gathering was one of the largest in San Francisco history, establishing the gay community here as a potent political force rapidly uniting to demand an end to sexual oppression and anti-homosexual bias. Though spirited and enthusiastic, close observers report that the mood of the parade was more subdued than it has been in recent years, with less drag queens and nudity.

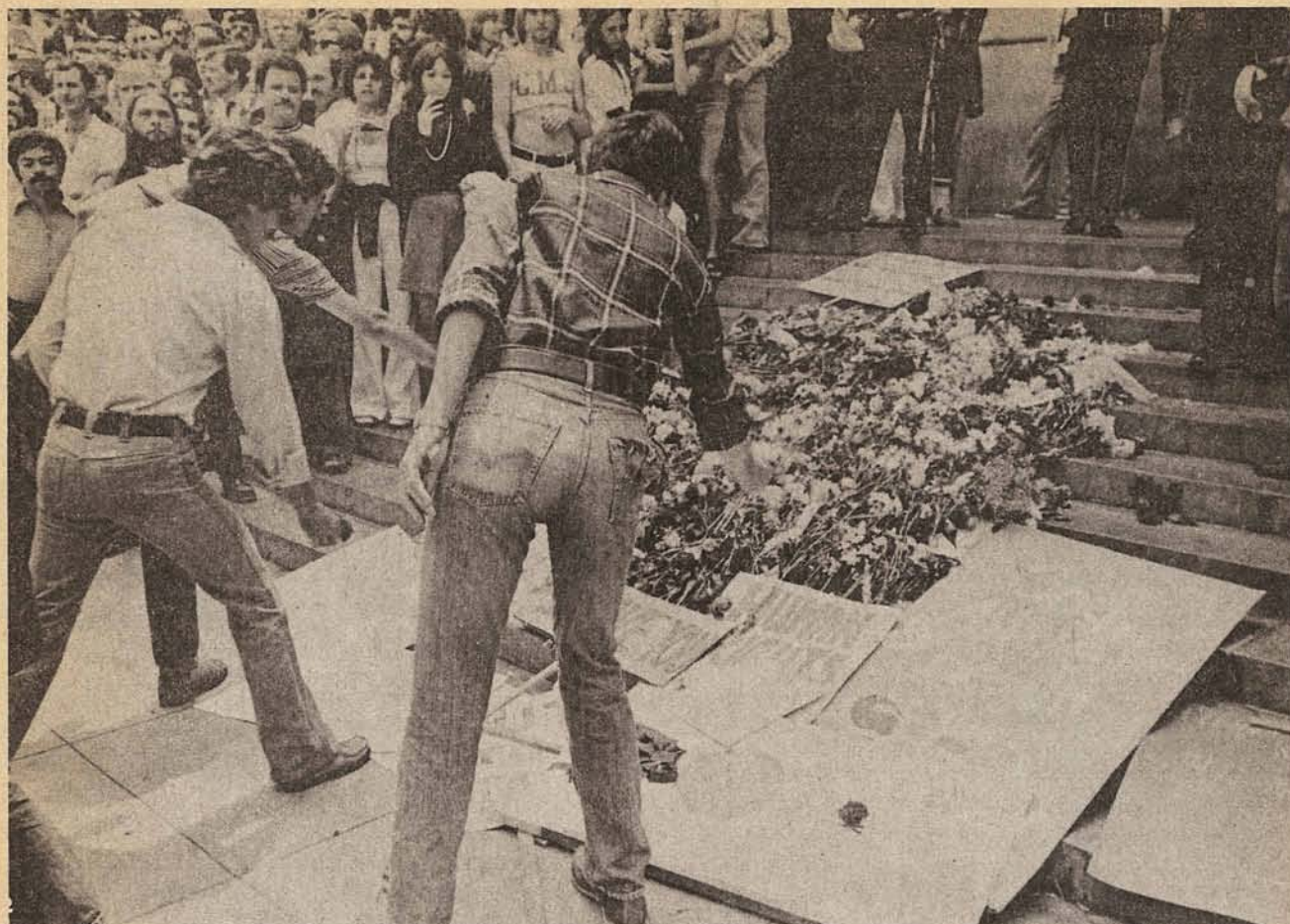
Apparently, this was a conscious decision by many parade participants, intended to show the nation that San Francisco is not the "cesspool of sexual perversion" projected by Anita Bryant and the conservative Save Our Children forces in their successful drive to overturn a gay rights ordinance in Dade County.

Contributing to both the huge turnout and the reflective mood was the shocking, savage slaying of 33-year-old Robert Hillsborough, a quiet homosexual murdered last week by a group of young men who shouted "faggot, faggot" as they



Over 250,000 marched in San Francisco in last month's Gay Freedom Day parade.





Memorial to slain Richard Hillsborough at Gay Freedom Day Parade.

stabbed him 15 times in the chest and face.

Gays and their supporters unanimously agreed that anti-homosexual attacks throughout the Bay Area had stepped up since Bryant began her self-righteous Bible-quoting crusade in Florida — a searing torch for right-wing forces that has been picked up, in California, by state senator John Briggs.

"Bryant and others like Briggs, (U.S. Senator S.I.) Hayakawa and (local TV newsman) Van Amberg have blood on their hands for inciting immature and insecure people to violence," said one gay activist.

At a press conference announcing the parade, Ericka Huggins, a leading member of the Black Panther Party, also denounced the rising "climate of fear and violence" caused by the anti-gay hysteria:

"As a member of the Black Panther Party, I would like to point out that shouting 'faggot' while ruthlessly stabbing a gay human being several times closely parallels this country's historical pattern of shouting 'nigger' while cruelly lynching, raping or castrating a Black

victim.

"We are all, our human, multi-ethnic community—Black and poor people, homosexual and heterosexual alike—victimized by the climate of fear and violence created by the Anita Bryants and John Briggses, those ultimately disposable types acting as front men, puppets for the powerful conservative interests, who seek to stop social change in all areas..."

"That is the issue here: the human civil rights of people, regardless of race or, indeed, sexual preference, to live out their lives free of bias and discrimination, free of racism and oppression, in order to develop to their full human potential.

"The hidden dangers, the lies and the potential for violence created by Anita's crusade in Florida, ought now to be clear to us all. Just as she used the Bible to whip up a nationwide backlash of unfounded fears and open hostility against gay people, so too was the Bible used for centuries to justify the enslavement of Blacks. Bigoted, racist minds need not be pushed too hard, need not be encouraged to blindly attack innocent victims. America has taught Black



people that lesson already."

It took over four hours for the gigantic parade, replete with hundreds of banners, balloons, floats and gaudy-dressed participants, to march from the downtown financial district to the civic center. Also, unlike previous years, women were much more prominent in last Sunday's event.

Responding to a call issue by parade organizers, many participants wore arm bands with inverted pink triangles—symbolizing the over 400,000 homosexuals put to death in Nazi concentration camps in World War II—inscribed with the words "Never Again." Thousands of others placed flowers on the steps of City Hall as a memorial for Hillsborough.

As parade leader Charles Morris, publisher of the gay newspaper, the *Sentinel*, summed it up: "We made a statement in San Francisco and across the nation that gay people are not going to allow our human and civil rights to be stripped away from us, that we're going to be very visible."□

## Narciso-Perez Case Goes To Jury

(Detroit, Mich.) The case of Leonora Perez and Filipina Narciso, two Filipina nurses charged with poisoning and murdering two patients at an Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital in 1975, went to the jury last month. Narciso and Perez, along with their supporters, have asserted their innocence and are 100% confident of their acquittal.

The trials of the two nurses culminated a two year investigation, heavily dominated by the FBI, into a series of mysterious respiratory arrests (heart failures) at the hospital. Narciso and Perez were both working the night shift at the hospital at the time and were accused of injecting a powerful muscle relaxant, Pavulon, into the patients' intravenous (IV) systems, resulting in breathing failure. However, during 41 days of testimony by 78 witnesses, not one testified seeing either nurse with the drug or inject the patients.

Spokespersons for the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) point to three issues in the trial: the use of the Filipina nurses as scapegoats, low medical standards at VA hospitals and harassment by the FBI.

The unjust treatment and harassment of the Filipina nurses is part of a continuing attack on the Filipino community in the U.S., particularly the medical profession. "The Narciso-Perez case is interconnected to the ongoing trend in the U.S. to discredit foreign born health and medical professionals." The real issue, they say, ought to be providing better patient care at V.A. hospitals.

During the trial it was revealed that several months before the incident, more than 60 nurses had signed a petition protesting shocking conditions at the hospital: inadequate staffing, lax security procedures and inadequate emergency procedures for dealing with heart failures. During cross examination by the defense it was learned that the V.A. Hospital where the deaths occurred allows psychiatric patients to roam the halls freely. Thus, a turning point in the trial was when four witnesses described an unidentified man in a "green scrub suit" seen in the vicinity of the victims' rooms.

FBI harassment and misconduct has persisted in the case. The FBI not only threatened and bribed witnesses, but also pressured the two nurses to admit their guilt. All evidence points to the agency being involved in a massive cover-up. The FBI never investigated other possible leads in the case: non-fatal heart failures, possible drug contamination and various unidentified people near the scene of the incident. There was also the case of the nurse with terminal cancer who was mentally depressed and supposedly admitted one year later her responsibility for the deaths. The FBI also withheld evidence during the pre-trial hearings and kept sole possession of the victims' medical records. When the nurses and their lawyers looked at the documents, they found clear evidence of papers being missing or shuffled. To date the FBI has spent more than \$1 million on this case alone.

As *KEEP STRONG* goes to press, some of the charges were dropped in the case, but the jury is out deliberating. Narciso and Perez point out that they are confident that in the end "justice will prevail," and they'll be acquitted. Ultimately, the key issue is one of upgrading the low standards of medical and patient care existent at V.A. hospitals, a fact recently brought forth in U.S. Congressional hearings. The Defense Committee as well as the two Filipina nurses will continue to press for a full investigation of what happened at the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor so that future incidents threatening the lives of patients will not occur. But until that investigation is done, free of FBI harassment and intimidation, the case will continue as an attack on the Filipino community in the United States.□



# INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

## U.S. Missionary Exposes Torture Of Zimbabweans

(New York, N.Y.) A White American missionary doctor, expelled from Rhodesia last month, said that torture of freedom fighters and Black civilians is "just routine."

Dr. Selwyn Spray, 38, of La Grande, Oregon spent two and one-half years operating a 155-bed clinic at Mount Silenda mission in Chipenga province near the Mozambique border. The Rhodesian government ordered him to be deported in late March for aiding Zimbabwean guerrillas.

Following a 30-day appeal period, Dr. Spray received a verbal assurance from the Rhodesian "minister of information" that the deportation order had been lifted. However, a week later two guerrillas were shot by police at the Mt. Silenda mission, and Dr. Spray was arrested. He spent two weeks in solitary confinement in a Chipenga jail before being put on a plane for London.

The University of Oregon Medical School graduate told *United Press International* that he became an expert at treating victims of



White missionary Selwyn Spray's disclosure of torture tactics used against the Zimbabwean people is reminiscent of the brutal massacre at Nyazonia last year.

electroshock torture and making house calls in an ambulance equipped with armor plate and a roll bar.

"The police are ruthless, brutal and cruel," Dr. Spray said. "I saw people who had been tortured in my hospital. I had the opportunity to observe several cases."

A common torture technique used by Rhodesian authorities, the United Church of Christ missionary said, is "to make people lie on the



Dr. Spray said he treated guerrillas at Mt. Silenda. "They carried arms and were branded 'terrorists' by the government. I would not call them that. They were just young men, many of them students, who were concerned about their country."



floor and beat them over the back or buttocks with a stick or hose."

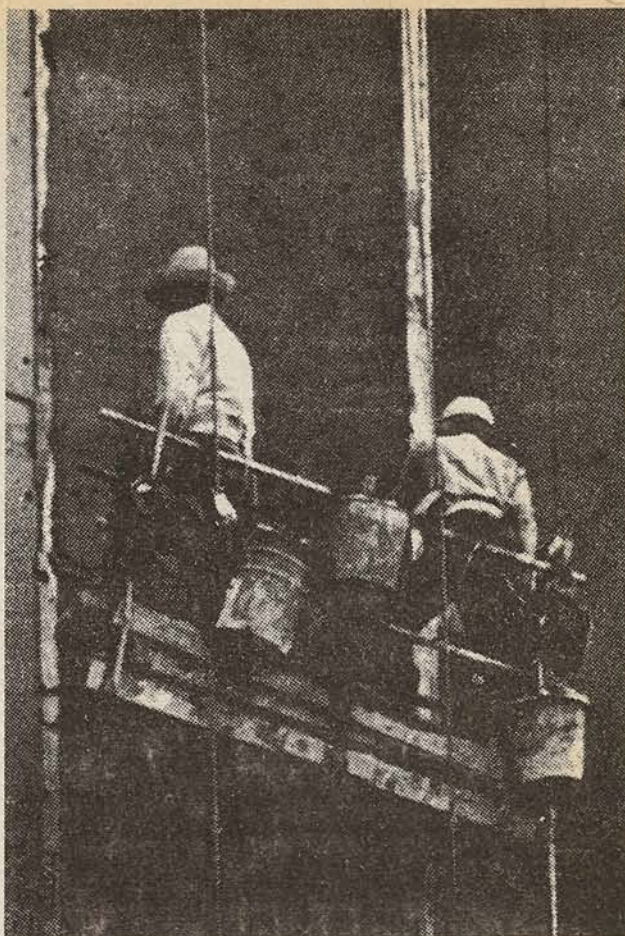
Civilian Blacks suspected of cooperating with freedom fighters are often subjected to electroshock, Dr. Spray explained.

"They had a chair with a metal back hooked to an electrical outlet. The victim would sit in the chair, and his feet would be placed in water. They'd simply switch on the current and switch it off," the American missionary said.

Dr. Spray said he treated guerrillas at Mt. Silenda. "They carried arms and were branded 'terrorists' by the government. I would not call them that. They were just young men, many of them students, who were concerned about their country," he said.

Confirming the widespread support that the liberation forces have among the masses of Zimbabwean people, Dr. Spray declared, "I can safely say that the majority of Blacks are behind the guerrillas. There is a possibility that there could be a civil war out there before too long."□

*Reprinted from The Black Panther*



The main reason for the tension in the labor situation in Puerto Rico is that the colonial government lacks any real power to deal with private corporations and therefore, the demands made by Puerto Rican workers who are employed by these companies.

## Talks Deadlocked At Union Carbide Plant In Puerto Rico

(Penuelas, P.R.) Workers at the Union Carbide plant in Penuelas, Puerto Rico were deadlocked last month in their negotiations for a new contract. Management officials told representatives of the Independent Union of Petroleum Workers (the union at the plant) that "there was nothing to negotiate" and refused to make any new offers to the workers.

Humberto Campos, president of the union, told *Claridad* that the union planned to hold a referendum to decide whether or not the workers should accept the present contract or go out on strike. According to *Claridad*, the referendum was held late last month.

The struggle of the workers at the Union Carbide plant is one of several now going on in Puerto Rico. Lucia Romero, Secretary of Organization of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP),

has warned the workers to "remain vigilant and maintain constant contact with their unions." He pointed out this is particularly true in the case of Union Carbide talks where negotiating sessions were being held with the presence of government mediators from the Bureau of Conciliation and Arbitration of the Labor Department.

PSP points out that tension in the labor situation is mounting in Puerto Rico. The main reason is that the colonial government lacks any real power to deal with private corporations and therefore, the demands made by Puerto Rican workers who are employed by these companies. According to *Claridad*, Romero stressed that the workers have every right to present their demands to the corporations and the government agencies. It then becomes the responsibility of the government to see that the workers' demands are met. Romero vowed that PSP will follow closely the outcome of labor negotiations at plants such as Union Carbide and support any action taken by the workers to "alleviate the exploitation to which they are submitted."□



# music from the heart

This month *KEEP STRONG* interviewed three of the most talented country music performers in the Chicago area. Li'l Fiddlin' Suzi appears throughout the area (and throughout the country) and plays the meanest fiddle for miles. Patti Jones has a strong, clear voice you can't forget and fits her harmony tight into the rhythm of the Rhythm Rangers. Eugene Turner is presently the bass man for the Whiskey River Band now appearing at the Paradise Lounge. Each of them have performed at the Uptown People's Community Service Center's monthly Country Music Sunday.

*KEEP STRONG: How did you get into playing and singing?*

Patti: I think when I first started to sing, it was in church choirs. It wasn't until much later, until I was seventeen, that I actually became serious about it. The first time that I sang in front of people my friends had to drag me up there. It was a jam session, and I got up, and I was terrified, and it sounded really, really bad, and I thought I'd never go back. But I kept going back, and things improved, and I started to feel more and more comfortable about what I was doing.

*KS: Do you have any problem getting gigs, rehearsing or playing the music that you want to?*

Suzi: Well, I don't rehearse very much with a band except with myself. But when I go to a place, and there's a band there, we really don't have much time to rehearse at all, so everything we do on stage is ad lib. They just come right in and do everything right there. I tell them what key, and they start it off or either I start it. It usually comes off pretty good, because you know most of the songs anyhow. I try to give them the best songs. I don't give them songs they never heard of, even though I may like them.

Eugene: Most of the people like to hear the old easy stuff instead of the modern music of today, because it's a lot easier to dance to. Like "Lyin' Eyes," — that's a hard tune to dance to, because it's half in between, not fast and not slow.

Patti: Yes, a lot of times people aren't going to be responsive to tunes they've never heard before. They really like the tunes they've heard on the radio or the old standards, and if you play that to the crowd, they really like it, and when you try to open it up to something new, it's really difficult.

*KS: What audience are you trying to reach, and what are you trying to reach them with?*

Eugene: Well me, I try to figure out what songs the people are in the mood to hear. I don't know if they want to hear it or not, but usually it turns out pretty good. I don't try to please myself. I just try to do what the audience wants to hear. A lot of guitar players are good, but they play their own mood, you know. I try to play the mood that everybody puts me in. I don't play too much or play too little. I just try to keep it smooth.

Patti: I think a lot of the purpose is fulfillment for me. I really get excited about it, and I try to feel it when I'm doing it. I think it's good to get a variety of audiences. I think that working in bars all the time can really be bad, because you're always dealing with the barroom, and there's a certain attitude that goes along with that. I really enjoyed working here at Country Music Sunday because there were kids there, and there were old folks there, and there were parents there, and they really liked it a lot! They really got into it. And to see those smiles from those people was really great. And they probably dug it more than any of the bars that we've ever played in. I think that is why I do country music, because when people write country music, they write it from their heart, and they feel it. They're writing





Li'l Fiddlin Suzi (left); Eugene Turner and the Whiskey River Band (above); Patti Jones with the Rhythm Rangers playing at the Uptown People's Community Service Center's Country Music Sunday.



about what they feel, and that's why I sing it. Those are human things that happen.

**Suzi:** I guess, I would try to reach anybody who was there, anybody who likes to hear music. It's hard to say who — just as many people as you can. You want everybody. You want to reach everybody, if it's possible.

**KS:** *You've been around the country a lot. Do you find any difference in audiences?*

**Suzi:** Yeah, most of the country audiences, they really like it. But since I'm young, anybody likes what I play. Some people come up and say, "I never liked country music, but I like the way

you're doing it." I'm glad; and even the other day I was playing for some kids, and I was just playing by myself with no back up. They really like hard rock, but when they heard that, they liked that too. It's nice to see when it's not just because it's rock, or just because it's country, but just because it sounds good.

**KS:** *Well, you know, that's why we asked you three particular people to be here. There's a million technicians out there, but they may not have the feeling. We want to thank you for sharing some of your thoughts with our readers and for continuing to share your gift and talent with people who can't afford to pay high concert prices.* □



# THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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25¢



The Intercommunal Survival Committee, responsible for **KEEP STRONG**, has been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to White people, for over 7 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive Whites is testimony to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as Whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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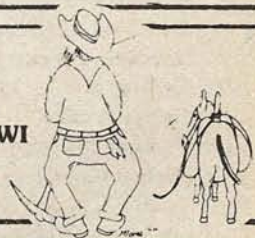
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# UPTOWN PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER'S SUMMER CALENDAR

All Events Take Place At 1222 W. Wilson Unless Otherwise Specified.

**July 10**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Chicago Area Black Lung Association  
Membership Meeting**

Open to interested community residents.

**July 24**  
**2:30 p.m.**

**Welfare & Legal Rights For**

How welfare programs affects  
people in the community.  
Topics will be held on  
including taxes, personal  
civil cases, divorce and

**July 31**  
**2:30 p.m.**

**Can We Own**

Forum on housing, sponsored by the  
Urban League, Survival Union.

**Aug. 13**  
**Noon-6 p.m.**

**Survival Day.**

A day of celebration of our progress  
towards developing a model  
survival in our community.  
The Sunnyside Mall. A health fair  
various kinds of medical screening  
educational material will be part of  
the events.



# A PROGRAM FOR SURVIVAL

*"All these programs satisfy the deep needs of the community but they are not solutions to our problems. That is why we call them survival programs, meaning survival pending revolution."—Huey P. Newton*

## Each One Teach One Program

Founded on the concept that it is everyone's responsibility to teach our children the skills necessary to survive, this program concretely is designed to raise the reading skills of the neighborhood youth.

## Legal Education & Defense Program

Offers counseling, advice and assistance in finding an attorney when necessary in any kind of legal, welfare or social security dispute.



Monthly Country Music Sunday at the Uptown People's Community Service Center

## Tenants Survival Union

Provides assistance and community support in landlord-tenant disputes. Building management and maintenance skills which exist in the community are put to use in order to improve neglected buildings.

## Black Lung Association

Provides assistance to ex-coal miners and their widows in their struggle to get the benefits they are entitled to by law.

Mutual aid programs also exist to deal with basic food, transportation and medical needs to the more severely afflicted black lung victims.

## Intercommunal News Service

Provides news and information about the world and poor and oppressed communities through the distribution of *Keep Strong* magazine and *The Black Panther*.

## Food Cooperatives

Provides good quality foods at lower than supermarket prices through community participation and community co-operative buying.



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"Development plans already exist for Uptown and the northwest side and the far west side and the far south side and the southwest side. You can go down to city hall and read these plans in expensively-printed copies, and you will find *they do not include us.*"

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# 2ND ANNUAL KEEP STRONG BANQUET **RESIST** **THE MASTERPLAN**

## ***Featured Speakers:***

**ELAINE BROWN,**  
***Chairperson Black Panther Party***

**JOSE MEDINA,**  
***Labor Organizer for CASA***

**JOSE ALBERTO ALVAREZ,**  
***1st Secretary of the Puerto Rican  
Socialist Party—US Branch***

**SLIM COLEMAN,**  
***Coordinator Intercommunal  
Survival Committee***

**Saturday, July 23, 1977  
The Midland Hotel  
172 W. Adams**

**6pm Reception  
(cash bar)**

**7pm Dinner**

**8pm Presentations**

**Tickets \$12.50**

**For reservations or more information call 769-2087**

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